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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

POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. By its resolution 1988/21 of 7 March 1988, entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing comments on the study on popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights (E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add. 1 and 2) made by Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which had not yet commented thereon, for consideration by the Commission at its forty-fifth session.

2. Accordingly, in a note verbale of 20 June 1988, the Secretary-General invited Governments which had not yet done so to make comments on the above-mentioned study, if possible by 15 September 1988. Likewise, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, by a letter of the same date, invited United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to do the same. A copy of Commission resolution 1988/21 was transmitted with each note verbale or letter.

3. It may be noted that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1987/21 of 10 March 1987 on this subject, had requested similar information and pursuant to that resolution the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session (E/CN.4/1988/11 and Add. 1). Information received pursuant to that resolution, and subsequent to the preparation of that report, is included in the present document.

4. The present report, prepared pursuant to resolution 1988/21, contains the comments on the above-mentioned study received as of 14 November 1988 from Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

I. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]
[23 December 1989
and 20 October 1988]

INTRODUCTION

In a democratic conception of affairs, freedom can only be achieved in the framework of the rule of law. In this case, the State must not be viewed purely as a necessary evil, but rather as a mode of living in which every individual is a member of a whole entity. Accordingly, the right to participation must not be construed exclusively as a right to mutual supervision in the face of the claims to State hegemony, but as a political objective, as a "spreading out" and as the materialization of excellent human possibilities.

THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Office of the Under-Secretary for Human Rights of the Ministry of the Interior, set up by Decree No. 3090/84 was entrusted with the function of "making studies and formulating recommendations on the desirability or necessity of enacting norms to guarantee and protect the full and effective exercise of human rights". Similarly, it has the duty to "organize and promote academic, educational and community activities directed to disseminate and reaffirm throughout society the validity and foundation of human rights".

In this framework, various courses were organized on that topic, consisting of the study of the themes and problems of human rights, their historic development and their international protection; civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights; education seen from the perspective of human rights; minorities and discriminations; the protection of refugees; violence and human rights, etc.

Convinced that the teaching of human rights must be directed at promoting attitudes and norms of behaviour, the Office of the Under-Secretary for Human Rights has prepared a plan of teaching units intended for students in the elementary schools.

In addition, it was decided to carry out a review of the study of human rights throughout Argentina at all levels and in all forms of education, both at the federal and the provincial levels. The purpose of this exercise is to obtain up-to-date information to serve as a basis for future educational plans in the matter.

EDUCATION

In the matter of education, priority was given to a new educational style involving a relationship of helpfulness, tolerance, mutual respect, and creative and responsible freedom. The freedom of access granted to secondary schools and university institutions removed the obstacles which stood in the way of hundreds of thousands of young persons were now able to study.

In addition, the activity of students' centres in the secondary schools and institutions of higher education has been legally authorized in order to facilitate the active participation of young persons in the affairs of the school and to favour exercise of freedom and responsibility on the part of the students. The aim pursued was to arrive at a democratization of education at all levels.

The following is a synthesis of the main decisions taken:

- * To decide to convert gradually all institutions into co-educational establishments and to adapt the facilities for that purpose (Resolution 1986/54).
- * To decide to promote the conversion of the class into a "workshop auditorium" by introducing essentially active and participatory working methods (Circular 87/85-DIMEM).
- * The minimum age of 18 was laid down for purposes of entering the free baccalaureate system for adults, thereby amending the earlier rule which laid down a minimum age of 21 years (Resolution 2329/85).
- * The regulations on school co-operatives were approved (Resolution 1599/86)

With the aid of participatory mechanisms, progress was made in the fight against illiteracy and semi-illiteracy with the aim of strengthening individual, family and community development through citizens capable of defending their own rights.

To this end, agreements were signed with various provinces and municipalities, with universities, with State undertakings and with trade unions and several international plans are under way initiated in March 1986 - two of them jointly with UNESCO.

Decree No. 2308 of the Federal Executive set up the National Commission on Functional Literacy and Continuing Education.

At the community level, workshops for making brick-blocks were organized with a view to building housing, restoring local crafts, forming family orchards, introducing effectively the co-operative system, providing legal advice on social welfare and labour legislation and free medical and dental assistance.

CULTURE

In the cultural area, the full enjoyment of freedom has had the effect of multiplying creativity in all sectors. The following are some of the major events promoted by the Secretariat for Cultural Affairs: Federal Cultural Meeting at Mar del Plata; First Latin American Festival of the Theatre; Days of Colombian Culture in Buenos Aires; First National Meeting on Community Participation; National Forum of Libraries; Picasso in Buenos Aires and Dalí in Argentina; Second Festival of National Symphonic Orchestras; National Programme for the Democratization of Culture; Meetings on the Cultural Policies of the Organization of American States at Bahía at Brazil, Cultural Programme in Neighbourhoods of the Municipality.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In the matter of research, the activity of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) consisted of contributing to eliminating the sequels of authoritarianism and discrimination which had marked that body during the dictatorship. To this end, the reinstatement of scientists and persons previously dismissed was facilitated and a system of fellowships set up to bring up to date the knowledge and facilitate the resumption of activities for persons who had had to interrupt their scientific work as a result of persecution or political discrimination; the return home of some 80 research workers was facilitated and they were incorporated into scientific research careers. The Office for the transfer of Technology was set up to promote contacts between the research workers and public and private enterprises. For its part, CONICET concluded an agreement with the United Nations for the subscription to libraries of foreign institutes and universities.

ACTION IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

In the social field, the National Government has worked on the structural reform of those institutions which were obstructing the achievement of a genuine equality of opportunity in the access to basic products and services by taking measures which guarantee an adequate level of fairness in distribution and a broad democratic participation in management.

The voluntary participation in a spirit of solidarity on the part of the community is essential if social plans and programmes are to take shape. The strengthening of a genuine distributive justice and the promotion of concrete forms of participation form part of the overall social scheme which the Ministry of Health and Social Action is attempting to carry out in practice. Examples in this respect are provided by the Popular Food Programmes such as PAN, by Community Purchases, by the School Restaurants, the Programme of Sports for All, the Programme of Neighbourhood Games, the Plans for Self-help Popular Housing, the National Health Insurance Project, the Fund for Assistance in Medicaments for Low-income Groups and a new approach in the dealing with the problems of minors, invalids and persons of the third age, etc.

SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR SOCIAL PROMOTION

For its part, the Secretariat of State for Social Promotion constitutes one of the main tools of the State in designing and implementing social policies. Its main objectives are directed towards bringing about a redistribution of income for the benefit of the more vulnerable sectors by reason of their socio-economic marginality. The Democratic Government is moreover determined to promote, together with these social sectors, new mechanisms for participation and community organization.

Within this framework, technical and financial support is being provided for initiatives in the community at various official levels aimed at strengthening organization and participation.

One of the minorities which is traditionally backward is that of Argentinians of indigenous origin. The floods which ravaged the north-east of the country affected the numerous communities of Tobas, Matacos and other Indian families.

In addition to materials for emergency help, sanitary equipment was sent and more sources were provided for, among other purposes, the construction of housing with a system of self-help and mutual assistance.

Likewise, the Secretariat of State for Social Promotion has promoted the setting up of community purchasing mechanisms in order to bring down the cost of primary necessities, food in particular. Community markets have been developed throughout the country.

It is worth noting, moreover, that a programme of orchards and farms is being put into operation. This programme consists of favouring the development of crops that contribute to self-sufficiency in food for backward communities which receive technical assistance in raw materials to generate their own production.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The co-operative sector in general has experienced a record numerical growth: more than 2,000 new entities. With its 11 million members, the co-operative movement is the most numerous social movement in the country. The Secretariat for Co-operative Action (SAC) has acted as a motor in this process and has worked to provide the co-operative movement with a juridical and legal framework suitable for its development.

There is a Commission which impels the National Plan for Co-operative Development. The Commission consists of officials belonging to different Government sectors connected with co-operative activity; also, the Commission benefits from the full participation of representatives of the co-operative movement through COOPERA and CONINAGRO. Among other measures taken, agreements were signed to ensure that rural workers, by way of self-help, create their own undertakings in the areas of farming, industry and public services. In addition, SAC has prepared a draft law for the purpose of instituting a special régime for workers' co-operatives which have a democratic management and practice social ownership. This meets a long-standing demand by the Argentinian Co-operative Movement and is bound to have an impact on the reactivation of the productive apparatus of the country.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The Council for the Consolidation of Democracy, an advisory body set up by the President of Argentina, handed down in October 1986 its opinion on the reform of the constitution of the country.

In its conclusions, the Council proposes a series of amendments to various aspects of the text of the Constitution, including the setting up of a mixed system of government, the creation of a post of "Prime Minister", changes in the functioning of Parliament and constitutional provision for "consultation of the people".

With regard to the "consultation of the people" the Council considers that the semi-direct forms of democracy (plebiscite, referendum) imply a broader participation by the citizens in the political process, by enabling them to express opinion on subjects of major importance.

The Council considers it advisable that the Executive should call for a consultation of the people (without binding effect) with regard to questions of special political importance. As far as Congress is concerned, provision would be made for popular participation in questions referred for approval or as regards rejection of existing laws or laws in the process of being adopted.

The possibility is also envisaged for citizens to submit draft laws to Congress, with the possible limitations of requiring a minimum number of signatures and regarding the type of proposals which may be submitted.

Another project also stresses the need to confer legitimacy at last to economic and social rights and to make provision for that duty to protect individuals underprivileged as regards capabilities and resources.

Furthermore, it suggests the introduction of clauses favouring a democratic spirit in private and public enterprises so that the users can exercise control over their management and co-operate in their direction.

The foregoing shows that one of the major objectives of the present Government is to develop the policies which have been programmed, taking into consideration the participation by the people. The most eloquent step taken in that direction has been the importance given by the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy to the semi-direct forms of the people's expression, such as the plebiscite and the referendum. The desirable reforms in education matters also show the emphasis being placed in the participation of citizens in the political process.

This trend is very typical of democratic governments based on genuine popular representation and is on the contrary absent in autocratic political régimes such as those which, fortunately, Argentinian history has left behind.

1. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF CULTURE

The National Programme for the Democratization of Culture (PRONDEC) has as its main objective that of contributing to develop democratic routines in our country. This is an indispensable prerequisite to bind together a mature and responsible society capable of solving conflicts and disagreements by means of constitutionalized measures. In this way, the participation of the population is strengthened and will gradually lead to the identification and subsequently the elimination of authoritarian elements which may possibly be present in Argentine society. This is undoubtedly a basic prerequisite for the sustained development of our country.

The PRONDEC programme attaches vital strategic importance to "popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and the full realization of human rights".

To this end, the Programme carries out a large number of activities calculated to restore to civilian society and to its institutions the necessary leadership to decentralize the State with the intention of strengthening creativity, responsibility and prudence - these being the main bastions for the complete realization of all human rights.

Along these lines, the Programme has undertaken several types of tasks, basically centred around the study of popular participation; the various areas of study involved are as follows:

2. **DIAGNOSES OF MACRO-SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DURING THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY**

2.1 **PRONDEC Meeting 1986 - Commission on Law, Justice and Security**

In May 1986 the first meeting on the democratization of culture was held in the General San Martin Theatre with the participation of 750 persons who broke up into several working commissions dealing respectively with Justice and Security, Neighbourhood Life, the Family, Art and Expression, Public Administration and Public Utility Services, Labour Relations, Sports, Education, etc.

The purpose of the meeting was to diagnose authoritarian situations in the various areas and to propose alternative solutions to eliminate them.

The Commission on Law, Justice and Security reached the following conclusions:

- (1) There is an imperative need to strengthen democratic culture in all its expressions as a fundamental value of the democratic system and as the antithesis of an authoritarian culture.
- (2) Priority must be given to human rights as a basic and dynamic value of democratic culture, stressing not only their ethical and legal aspects but also their political dimension.
- (3) There is a need to allow the expression of dissent under the rule of law.

These three themes are broached in certain areas which are described below and also in the theme "Discrimination and Interdisciplinary Action".

2.2 **Meeting on the reform of the Argentinian penitentiary system**

The prison system of Argentina is marked by a disciplinary régime which is at variance with the democratic system. Prison institutions, here because of their obsolescence and authoritarianism unmindful of human rights, become veritable schools of crime. They constitute a potential factor of conflict in the short term, with unforeseeable consequences.

These institutions moreover reflect on society norms of behaviour and medietic symbols which strengthen and favour authoritarian attitudes heavily laden with social aggressivity. They do so through models of social behaviour which are often praised by the communication media and thereby undermine democratic values. Moreover, they are not in conformity with the constitutional provisions relating to rehabilitation of the individuals concerned and their reinsertion in society.

2.3 Meeting on science, technology and democracy

In this area, identified as another of the priority areas of the Programme, meetings were held during the year 1986 with members of the Argentine Scientific Community, to discuss various aspects of the authoritarian modalities which discriminate and hinder the development of scientific and technological practice in our country.

Various possible courses of action were examined with the purpose of arriving at an effective democratization of the institutions concerned. To this end, a basic document was produced on a theme which, in the form of a diagnosis, described the concerns of the research workers and technicians on these problems. Thus, during the present, the study will continue of the questions referred to, considering that the topic was not exhausted and that the participants themselves wished to continue the discussion.

2.4 Proposed programme on discrimination and interdisciplinary action

In the coming months, the topic of discrimination in its various forms will be examined; to this end, a number of different activities have been planned, such as: seminars, panels, colloquia, workshops specifically designed for formulating subprogrammes on pre-school education, authoritarianism and participation, racism, women, youth, etc.

As they proceed, these programmes will be connected with the non-governmental organizations and Government bodies which are already working on the same topic.

2.5 Programmes carried out in co-operation with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)

Pursuant to an agreement between this programme and FLACSO, various research activities have been carried out by high-level specialists with the aim of establishing a connection between the problems of authoritarianism and the socio-economic and political aspects of Argentine society.

These activities have led to the production of the following documents: Family Farms in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry; Democracy, Legitimacy and Corporate Spirit, The Technological Revolution, National Autonomy and Democracy. These same topics were discussed in the framework of the Programme with various specialists as well as with entrepreneurs, trade unionists and officials.

It should be noted that the study on trade unionism and education was discussed on 31 August last at a meeting attended by representatives of a broad range of trade unions; as a result, plans of action were devised for the purpose of enabling workers to meet successfully the technological changes of the present crisis of transformation of the productive structures.

2.6 Symposium on the reorganization of public hospitals

An analysis of the health units has been carried out with a view to improving the services provided by public hospitals at different levels. This project centres on specific actions being carried out in the municipal hospital "Vicente López" and it must be noted that in the month of December a preparatory meeting was held on the topics of participation of different areas.

A variety of circumstances indicate a great measure of authoritarian conducts which as a rule take an organizational forms; it can thus be maintained that, as indeed happens in other areas of the State, there exist "authoritarian cultures" which affect the users through the various services rendered.

This field of activity is one of the priority areas of the Programme and several meetings have been held for purposes of debate and diagnosis and a basic document has also been produced which outlines the problems affecting the sector. As for the participants, they covered a broad spectrum ranging from specialists and intermediate organizations to users of the system. This means that an attempt was made to make use of participatory models capable of introducing changes in health management which will enable the community to perform a leading role. In this sense, the module constitutes an adequate and effective instrument to achieve these objectives.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES AT THE MESO-SOCIAL LEVEL

At this level, two types of problems call for attention.

3.1 Meeting on the exchange of participatory experiences with productive enterprises

A number of successive seminar-workshops are being carried out in economically-productive enterprises (private and State-owned) with the aim of socializing and sharing participatory and democratic methodologies calculated to enhance levels of efficiency and effectiveness by giving a central role to the human factor in the organizations.

As a result of these workshops, an organizing committee was established for the purpose of organizing a congress for the inter-exchange of participatory experiences, to be held in the month of October of the present year in the General San Martin Theatre.

For the same purpose, a Preliminary Meeting on Participatory Experiences in Enterprises was held on 10 August of the present year.

3.2 Programmes for the development and strengthening of non-governmental organizations

This is an area which gives rise to the greatest expectations on the part of PRONDEC. As we have already stated, the aim is to re-establish the role of the popular organizations as the fundamental axis for the strengthening of democracy and human rights in our country in this complex process of transition. In this context, participatory meetings have already been held with the NGOs of the cities of Rosario, General Roca and Bariloche, envisaging not only the exchange of experiences and problems but also the setting-up of management committees which will make for the permanence of these organizations.

Furthermore, it is intended to connect the NGOs with participatory programmes implemented by the State, in order to redefine their policies which as a general rule suffer from a paternalistic assistentialist approach.

It is worth noting that following a series of meetings with NGOs established in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires carried out during the year 1987 and coinciding with the activities set forth in the previous paragraph, it was possible to organize a Congress of Non-Governmental Organizations on 1, 2 and 3 August in the General San Martin Theatre, attended by 237 NGOs representing 17 provinces and with 672 participants.

4. MICRO-SOCIAL PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES AND NGOS

4.1 Supplementing the activities described above, comprehensive technical assistance is supplied, through a team of experienced professionals, to municipalities, NGOs and municipalities in conjunction with NGOs; what is involved is the formulation of diagnoses, evaluations and the development of participatory social policies. Moreover, PRONDEC is in a position to design training programmes suited to specific needs. In this context, participatory planning workshops have been held in five municipalities of the Province of San Juan with 40 participants as well as a course for neighbourhood promoters in the Argentine Association for Family Protection with more than 30 participants.

Similar tasks have been planned for the forthcoming months for five municipalities of the Province of Buenos Aires; they will be carried out in the municipality of Lobos and the municipalities of the provinces of Santa Fé, Entre Ríos, Tucumán, etc. These activities have as their specific objectives the systematic transfer of participatory methodologies for community action.

5. AREA OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION OF PRONDEC

Without neglecting the traditional channels of communication, the Programme has directed its attention to unconventional forms of communication and has moreover offered technical assistance to the NGOs in this respect.

(a) To this end, an agreement with LA CRUJIA has led to arrangements for the following courses: (1) popular communication; (2) planning of communication; (3) popular press workshop; (4) participatory wireless workshop; (5) popular video workshop; (6) communication and group and community animation. Moreover, course No. 1 will be repeated from 8 to 12 August in the city of Córdoba.

(b) The Programme publishes also a monthly bulletin in 3,200 copies. Five issues have already appeared; this publication constitutes an appropriate medium to disseminate activities and provides space for various institutions which do not have access to institutionalized media.

It should be noted that the Management Committee of the city of Rosario possesses already a micro-radio station which broadcasts once a week and which disseminates news on the activities of the NGOs forming part of the Committee.

(c) Events featuring humour as the critical and creative expression of Argentinians as well as an instrument which sheds light upon, and helps to combat, the manifestations of authoritarianism which are present in our society. In this context, a travelling humoristic exhibition is being planned with the participation of the most representative artists; they will moreover contribute to reassert federalism and revive regional feelings.

(d) Lastly, the panel was held in the city of Cordoba, at the Stock Exchange of that city, on 12 August the topic of "Contribution of the Press to the Consolidation of Democracy" with the participation of outstanding journalists from the national newspaper media.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

All the areas discussed in detail in this report, contemplate, at the macro-metá and micro-social levels, the topic of implementation and putting into operation the programmes for the development and strengthening of human rights in the social-cultural and economic fields. It follows therefrom that *popular participation constitutes the main axis of the strategies which have been developed for the purpose of strengthening the final consolidation of human rights and the permanence of democracy in our country.*

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]
[16 September 1987]

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Community organizations are legal entities constituted by persons drawn from different levels of national society who are joined together in the concern for solidarity, cultural, artistic, or sports advancement, rehabilitation and other matters inherent in the development of the environment in which they live.

Each of these organizations, in one way or another, participate in the life of its commune, and the neighbourhood groups, consisting of persons living in the same unit, participate with the authorities of their commune by submitting their suggestions, and opinions regarding the problems which affect their community. The spirit of solidarity which animates the members of the neighbourhood groups ensures that the activity, the actions and the search for solutions for the improvement and advancement of the commune, will always have a positive result.

The sports clubs, which assemble persons having the same inclination for physical development, provide the community with persons capable of performing activities requiring adequate physical resistance.

The attainment of a measure of health compatible with the development of the community is the aim of the activities conducted by such organizations as clubs for the rehabilitation of alcoholics, clubs for the disabled, centres for the blind, and clubs for diabetics whose purpose is to improve the position regarding those problems and to deliver healthy persons able to participate in active life.

As for cultural development, it finds its maximum expression in the cultural and artistic centres; indigenous values are fostered and developed in the Huaso Clubs and Rodeo Clubs, whose members are basically attached to reviving in their commune the basic elements of Chilean customs.

The youth of today, who will be called upon in the future to promote the grandeur of our fatherland, is represented by the youth clubs. Their training activities at the various educational levels are intended to form persons capable of participating in the progress of their commune.

The inevitable limitations suffered by aged persons are offset by the senior citizens' clubs, the technical management of which is entrusted to women monitors, and which succeed in integrating aged persons in the development of their communes.

Similarly, women who are the foundation of the family and the nucleus of the community, find their maximum expression in the mothers' centres. They meet in those centres and with their qualifications and the workshops therein established, make a very great contribution to the advancement of their community while at the same time obtaining modest earnings for themselves to supplement the family income.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council (set up by Presidential Decree No. 447) has, among its major duties entrusted to it by His Excellency the President of the Republic, the following tasks which we can single out with regard to the current year:

I. ADVISING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

(a) The present and prospective future needs regarding the requirements for vocational and technical training compatible with the development of the country and their effects on the higher education system.

(b) Distribution and utilization of the resources for technological research in the interests of the national socio-economic development.

(c) Considerations regarding the promotion and development of tourism, bearing in mind area management and the capacity, conditions and projections of the tourist infrastructure of the country.

(d) Improvement and maintenance of a system of rural telecommunications, with special emphasis on telephones and telegraphs, with the support of the user communities.

II. TOPICS OF STUDY ARISING FROM THE CONCERN OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THEMSELVES

(a) Analysing the real conditions in which the economic activities are at present conducted by reference to the consumer, and to propose measures of protection and steps to improve his capacity for making choices.

(b) Identifying the areas, sectors or subsectors of the economy in which the market, for a variety of causes, does not function efficiently as regards the proper allocation of resources.

(b) Proposing measures calculated to continue the process of de-bureaucratization of State structures with the aim of improving their efficiency and confining the action of the State, particularly in accordance

with the principle of subsidiarity, as laid down by the institutional provisions in force.

(d) At the social level, analysing the evolution and the present situation regarding the distribution among the various strata of the population and its effect on the social expenditure of the Government, so as to propose measures calculated to improve the efficiency of distribution and focusing of social expenditure towards the more underprivileged sectors of the population.

(e) Analysing the present situation of the administration of justice in Chile and proposing the necessary reform measures to bring up to date and to render more flexible its procedures so as to enable justice to be rendered in a more effective, thorough and technically adequate manner.

(f) Examining formulas whereby the private sector can contribute to finance housing programmes, thereby supplementing the activities carried out by the Government in that respect, with the aim of reducing the housing shortage.

(g) Studying in an overall manner the problems of environmental pollution and the use of renewable natural resources, with the aim of proposing to the authorities measures calculated to prevent the deterioration of our ecological environment and reconciling the necessary balance which must be maintained between the technical norms which regulate the collective law of the uncontaminated environment and the necessary economic development of the country.

III. REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT

(a) Recommendations resulting from the "Message of His Holiness the Pope on his visit to Chile".

(b) Analysis of the Chilean Social Welfare System.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]
[24 June 1987]

In Colombia, there has been for a long time talk of community participation but it is worth noting that while this participation concerns the beneficiaries of public services, it is also the responsibility of the Government officials to see that it materializes and this is possible only when it takes place in double track, i.e. when the community is prepared to support the institutional efforts in the matter and when the representatives of the State sector promote and guide the action of individuals, families and organizations and when concerns and suggestions are welcomed as important contributions to the success of Government programmes. The task of putting together efforts, ideas, and initiatives and involving our creativity and capacity for action constitutes one of the most important strategies to bring about genuine transformations in the economic, social and cultural fields in our country.

During the past 30 years, our Governments have included in the national plans for social and economic development the component of community participation as an essential element to bring about a more efficient action on the part of the State and to arrive at higher levels of progress and well-being for the community. On every successive occasion an even greater emphasis is placed on the need to promote the active and democratic participation of the population in the process of formulating and implementing the activities undertaken by the State for the purpose of guaranteeing the adequacy and success of the solutions proposed.

At the present time, when the majority of those countries described as developing countries are struggling in the midst of a grave crisis of a political, economic and social character, the participation of citizens in the search for formulas calculated to bring about greater understanding and peaceful coexistence becomes imperative.

The strategy consisting of including community participation in the solution of national problems had its origin in the countries which suffered the hardships of the Second World War. Following the positive results then achieved, that experience was recorded and improved as a methodology by international bodies such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) which promoted and recommended its application in the developing countries. In Latin America, in such countries as Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela and Colombia, this new working pattern is being applied with success. Colombia has made great progress with the application of norms and procedures for the purpose of involving community participation not only at the Government level but also at the private level where magnificent experiments have been carried out which have had repercussions in other countries.

Self-help programmes in house building constitute the oldest example of community participation and of the genuine capacity for action of the Colombian people. There have been important experiments in Colombia in this field, with the carrying out of programmes directed by the various Government bodies, in which the community has taken on a predominant role; as an example, we can mention the housing programmes underway in a number of cities of the country which are the fruit of a collaboration directed at the achievement of improved living conditions for the population, especially in the most underprivileged sectors.

These programmes are not improvised casually; they are the product of minds with a genuine community mystique capable of putting up with a great deal and of making great sacrifices in order to go to the communities to organize them, guide and advise them so as to arrive at a veritable scheme of national development; many obstacles have to be overcome in order to achieve that goal, from the organization of the community which requires involvement in its environment and sharing with it all its limitations and problems. Each of these experiments has yielded notable examples e.g.: educating the community for participation produces a concern to improve living conditions; to that end, programmes have been undertaken for housing improvement, food conservation, infant care, vocational training courses in branches which will later produce an income for the family; vaccination and medical assistance campaigns, literacy campaigns and other programmes; the construction of houses intended to respond primarily to the basic necessities in the matter

and at the same time to train the beneficiaries in building techniques and the handling of materials - a training which will later help them to find new sources of employment.

Since 1957, when the Commission on Rehabilitation was established in order to study the causes of violence and to make recommendations with a view to the restoration of a normal state of affairs, the various successive Governments have endeavoured to broaden the areas of participation by the citizens in the matter and as well as consultation between the community and the public and private bodies concerned.

THE SECRETARIAT FOR POPULAR INTEGRATION

In 1975 the Government established the Secretariat for Popular Integration into the Office of the President of the Republic, with the task of guiding and co-ordinating the application of the Government's social policy and of activating community participation in the country, mobilizing the energies of the population of neighbourhoods, streets and places of work.

The Secretariat of Popular Integration has been carrying out this task with great success by implementing the programme for the integration of services and the participation of the community with the participation of various State bodies to help and improve living conditions for the inhabitants of urban marginal areas, a programme whose basic strategy is community action.

The policy of broad and democratic popular participation which is the guiding spirit on which an ever-increasing emphasis is being placed, has found its full expression on the part of the Secretariat with the work of community promotion, animation and organization being conducted in the marginal areas of the 24 intermediate cities in which the Programme is being implemented as well as in other places where because of special situations, the Secretariat has been called upon to furnish to the population the means and instruments for achieving its aspirations. This is a task which demands the support of all Colombians to open up better channels of communication and understanding which are essential in order to achieve peace in Colombia and to strengthen the democratic spirit which marks the Colombian people.

CIPACUR

In order to provide a mechanism for ensuring the effective participation of the community, the Secretariat for Popular Integration, jointly with SENA, has designed a new methodology of work with the community which comprises a process of reflection and training in action so as to enable the persons concerned to decide, in the light of their interests and capabilities, to get together and shoulder responsibilities in a manner permitting joint action between the community and the Government.

The project entitled: "Training for urban community integration - CIPACUR" was designed in the light of the experience obtained by SENA with the implementation of its CAPACA programme and that of the Secretariat for Popular Integration with the IPC programme.

The task of developing a joint action by the community and the Government requires a judicious process of reflection and awareness on the part of both sectors but more particularly by those of them who have succeeded

to the Government level and accepted the responsibility of being the agents of the Government entrusted with putting into operation the various institutional mechanisms for providing greater and better services to our countrymen.

SOCIAL PLAN FOR PEACE

The work accomplished by the Secretariat for Popular Integration in the field of co-ordination of institutional services and more particularly with the promotion and support of community participation, has been recognized at the national level; as a result of this positive experience, the Government has recently entrusted this Secretariat with the co-ordination of the National Rehabilitation Plan or Social Plan for Peace which will be executed with the participation of approximately 70 entities and the sponsorship of 160 municipalities.

This plan is the essential component of the policy of peace - both economic and social - which has become the priority objective of the most recent Governments. The aim is to restore social, economic and political conditions which will consolidate peace, starting from the direct consultation of the beneficiaries and their contribution in the matter of initiatives, suggestions and resources to maximize the offer of the State. In the implementation of this plan, the Secretariat for Popular Integration plays a very important role not only as regards co-ordination but more importantly as regards the design and application of mechanisms which guarantee the involvement of the community in the whole process of programming, implementing and evaluating the plan, which is conceived as the whole body of Government activities to be performed in the areas affected by political violence in order to improve the infrastructure and the provision of services.

An effort is being made to provide the theoretical and practical elements for activating the process of community participation to be set in motion with the implementation of the Social Plan for Peace and to give concrete shape to a statement made on the subject by the President Belisario Betancur during his term of office: "When popular participation becomes permanent exercise of citizen capacity - i.e. both a right and a duty - then and only then will we be able to say that our democracy has gained in depth and strength, in social sense and in effectiveness and that our people has ceased to be the object of history in order to become its actor ...".

JAMAICA

[Original: English]
[8 September 1988]

The Secretary-General's study on popular participation is a comprehensive analysis of the concept of participation as an essential element in the development process and its relationship to the promotion and full realization of human rights.

As evidenced in the Secretary-General's report, the concept of popular participation is not a new one. Historically, popular participation has evolved through community-based activities which have provided the framework for social and economic progress. Reference to the importance of popular participation can be found in several international instruments such as the International Bill of Rights and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

The difficulty experienced in arriving at a global definition of popular participation was inevitable in view of the range of political, socio-economic and cultural systems the study examined. The broad definitions of the concept of popular participation (para. 25) seek to embrace the many and varied expressions of this phenomenon, while underscoring the role of collective action.

The Government of Jamaica views popular participation as an indispensable factor in development as it helps to identify problems and prospects for development. Collective involvement, both vertically and horizontally, ensures that programmes are designed and implemented so as to contribute meaningfully to overall development.

The human rights dimension of popular participation is self-evident. Intrinsic to the whole question of popular participation is the recognition of and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. Popular participation therefore implies the existence of freedom of expression, freedom and association and other basic human rights.

In this regard, the Government of Jamaica believes that the most significant contribution of the study is that it reveals that popular participation is a cornerstone of democracy. Genuine participation cannot occur in the absence of democracy. Similarly, the democratic process promotes popular participation. Active participation should be guaranteed in all spheres of public life - political, economic, social and cultural.

In Jamaica, popular participation is guaranteed in the political process. The right to self-determination was exercised in Jamaica's evolution towards independence. Jamaica emerged as a sovereign independent State in August 1962, following a referendum based on universal adult suffrage. Since political independence was won, the right to self-determination as an expression of popular participation in the democratic process continues to be practised. Through universal adult suffrage, citizens are able to choose their political representatives in free, fair and regular elections. Citizens are also free to participate in the activities of the political party of their choice. There are also parliamentary committees consisting of representatives of political parties to consider legislation and government policies. Public opinion is often invited on national issues. Popular participation in decision-making is further encouraged by the establishment of advisory committees whose membership comprise individuals from all social groups.

Popular participation is also facilitated by the existence of co-operatives, particularly in rural areas, citizens' associations and voluntary organizations. It has been found that the involvement of community-based associations, ensures grass-roots initiatives in participatory development.

The full exercise of trade union activity is governed by law and applied in practice. Collective bargaining on working conditions, and sometimes on management activities between employers and employees through trade union representation, ensures the effective participation of workers in decisions affecting them in their working life.

Finally, it should be mentioned that active participation in development by vulnerable and disadvantaged groups - women, youth, elderly and disabled persons - is ensured in Jamaica through the establishment of mechanisms for their involvement in decision-making, particularly with regards to measures which may directly affect them.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]
[21 September 1988]

The Secretariat study (E/CN.4/1985/10) sets forth the basic principles relating to popular participation as an important factor for development mentioned both in the General Assembly resolutions as in those of the Commission on Human Rights and referred to in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

The concept of popular participation, with which the study of the Secretary-General deals, may be situated in the framework of the following United Nations pronouncement with regard to the said decade: "A right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized".

As pointed out in the study, in Mexico the participation by peasants, through producers' co-operatives, ejidos and other voluntary groups, is directed towards the achievement of an integrated rural development. In addition, municipalities have given an impetus to State and regional development programmes which serve to redistribute national wealth in the many and varied regions of the country.

With regard to the effective administration of justice, the Government of President Miguel de la Madrid set in motion, by means of a popular consultation, the reform of the judiciary for the purpose of ensuring a better administration of justice and strengthening confidence in the country's institutions as well as the safety; as a result, Mexican citizens can be assured of obtaining speedy, impartial, free and complete justice administered by independent courts.

In order to provide the fundamental legal framework for the full exercise of political rights, an electoral reform was carried out which laid the basis of citizen participation in the Government of the Federal District

for the purpose of improving levels of living for its inhabitants and a programme of electoral renewal was carried out which is strengthened by a mixed system of representation and which institute a new system for dealing with and resolving disputes relating to elections that takes into account the different opinions and proposals put forward by citizens, political parties and the Government itself.

Furthermore, mention must be made of the efforts being made in Mexico, through its institutions, to ensure the participation of its inhabitants in the various sectors of its activities.

The Family Integrated Development (DIF) scheme has encouraged the participation of minors in society, among other things by promoting primary education as a compulsory education, legal equality as between children born in wedlock and out of wedlock, the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents and the assurance of belonging to a family.

The above-mentioned Institution also participates in the integration of women in economic activities and supports the central role of women in the family and in the community.

With a view to improving matters with regard to programmes in favour of youth, the Government relies since 1977 on a National Council of Resources to Assist Youth (CREA) which has the task of putting in place and strengthening the various forms of social communication, development and participation by young people in cultural, sports, academic and leisure organizations.

With regard to matters connected with the elderly, the National Institute for the Elderly has been set up; through the National Health System, this Institute carries out and co-ordinates activities in favour of aged persons by means of assistance and medical services as well as by encouraging productive activities on the part of the aged and creating the necessary conditions for their integration in society.

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 1988]

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

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, through the National Directorate for the Care of Children and the Family has, among other responsibilities, that of attending to the study, attention and solution of the problems permanently affecting children and the family in Panama.

This Directorate acts through one or other of its operational units, which deal respectively with family welfare and promotion, child guidance, promotion and vocational training of women, welfare of the elderly, youth and prevention units, technical and statistical co-ordination and administrative co-ordination.

A. DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROMOTION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF WOMEN

The Department for the Promotion and Vocational Training of Women is the operational unit responsible for planning and developing programmes directed at the feminine population between the ages of 15 and 45. Its main objective is to promote the development of programmes to achieve equality between men and women as well as participation by women in the social and economic life of their communities.

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, this Department has created five subprogrammes as follows:

1. Training. This subprogramme provides groups of women and their families with theoretical and practical tuition in the various areas of personal and group development, in order to promote the organization of women's associations in the communities.

The population covered by this subprogramme includes members of the community connected with productive projects and vocational projects relating to various specializations connected with social sciences or with the family.

2. Production projects. These are intended to foster the organization of groups of women unable to find work, with the aim of providing them with training and enabling them to carry out activities which will improve their living conditions. The organization of these groups requires the taking of steps to obtain resources from international organizations and Government bodies. There are at present four production projects underway with a total of 39 women, engaged in activities of various different kinds.

3. Documentation Centre for Women. This centre is responsible for gathering and classifying information on women published by specialized organizations. All the documentation to be found in this centre is available for consultation by the public in general.

4. Research. This subprogramme is responsible for carrying out research of various kinds on the real conditions of Panamanian women; these results constitute the main input of programme activities; on the basis of the information thus obtained, bibliographical material will be prepared for consultation in the Documentation Centre.

5. Formulation of projects. This subprogramme plans and develops activities to deal with specific problems relating to the feminine population in general; these are carried out with the participation of public and private institutions interested in the subject.

The foregoing is a contribution by the Department of Promotion and Vocational Training for Women (Office of Women in Panama) in the search for equality between men and women in the constant need to improve quantitatively and qualitatively the participation of women, i.e. half the population of Panama, who have been, are and will continue to be a necessary human resource for the construction of a new world of peace.

B. DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Objectives:

1. To promote the bio-psycho-social welfare of the aged population of the country, whether socially active or cared for in special centres;
2. To make use of the opportunities and capabilities of the aged population for its own benefit and for the benefit of the country at large;
3. To motivate the family and the community to take positive action with regard to the situation of aged persons in order to secure common efforts for their welfare;
4. To secure the formulation of basic guidelines to regulate the centres which care for the aged in the Republic of Panama;
5. To attend to, and follow up, individual cases;
6. To attend to, and follow, the specialized care centres.

C. NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND PREVENTION

This Department is concerned with designing and implementing programmes and actions of a preventive character for the benefit of the youthful population. The statistics show (1980 census) that the total population of our country consists of 1,831,399 inhabitants, of which 373,398 are young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years. These figures indicate that this sector of the population requires numerous services because of the many problems facing it as a result of the constant changes which society is undergoing.

The Department's programmes are directed primarily at Panamanian young people living in marginal neighbourhoods, popular sectors and the community in general.

General objectives: 1. To identify the existing needs so as to develop programmes and actions which will contribute to the comprehensive development of young persons; 2. To obtain the participation and collaboration of families in the various programmes of the Department; 3. To carry out activities for raising the educational, cultural and recreational level of the youthful population and its active participation in the life of the community.

PROGRAMME: SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (POST INSTITUTIONAL)

This programme has emerged to response, at the national level, to the needs of young students leaving institutions for the protection of minors subsidized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and of young students from various sectors who experience socio-economic difficulties.

The students selected are required to follow secondary courses of study in official schools and to obtain the minimum academic grade of 3. The beneficiaries receive a benefit of 30 balboas every two months. For that

purpose, we have a fixed allocation of 17,000 balboas annually which enables us to cover a population of 141 students in the country.

The continued stay of a student in the programme depends on a number of factors, among which we may note: the need for support, the sense of responsibility of the youth and his participation in the activities organized. In order to encourage students to obtain a good grade, co-ordination is maintained with the Institute for the Training and Utilization of Human Resources in order to obtain a fellowship. Nevertheless, the beneficiary will continue under the supervision of the programme of support and guidance in order to ensure his school success and the benefit of his scholarship.

The support provided to us by the above Institute will enable us to broaden the coverage of our programmes, since we will then be able to assist a greater number of students.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To contribute to the improvement of the difficult socio-economic situation of students with a view to enabling them to complete their secondary studies.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. To contribute to the process of training of young students by means of socio-educational activities; 2. To organize at the provincial level the beneficiaries of the programme; 3. To co-ordinate with the schools the attention to specific situations, mobilizing resources and arranging academic supervision for the young persons benefiting from the programme; 4. To assist and guide the young persons individually and in groups in the various situations which arise; 5. To guide the parents as regard to the problems and needs of young people.

ORGANIZATION OF YOUNG GROUPS

In view of the innumerable problems which affect young people, such as low academic levels reached, school drop-out, premature pregnancy, drug addiction, sexually transmitted diseases, family problems, poor use made of free time, unemployment, etc., and in view of the limited resources available to assist this important group of the population, the need has emerged to implement a programme allowing for a greater coverage.

The programme concerns groups at the community level which, with the advice and guidance of the Department of Youth and Prevention, will promote among its members critical activities and the search for solutions for their problems. The creation of these organizations is a very important step, considering that young people constitute more than 50 per cent of the total population of the country - a proportion which is likely to go on increasing, among other reasons because of the accelerated growth of the population and the increased expectancy of life in Panama.

The approach of this programme will be basically preventive, since in the area considered the emphasis must be placed on persuading young persons to analyse the various situations affecting them to be in a position to choose among the various alternative courses and take their own decisions, thereby preparing themselves to face the responsibilities of adult life.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To organize the young people of our country with the aim of preventing conflict situations and envisaging alternative solutions for the problems confronting at present this group of the population.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. To organize community groups of youths for the purpose of analysing together their present problems and seeking alternative solutions; 2. To provide guidance to young persons and parents on questions of common interest; 3. To prevent situations of conflict which may affect the psycho-social development of young persons; 4. To raise the social, educational and cultural level by means of a variety of different activities; 5. To deal with the family situations and individual problems which affect directly young persons.

PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT BY VULNERABLE OR UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUPS

"HELP ME TO GROW UP" PROJECT IN THE GUAYMI INDIGENOUS AREA, SAN CRISTOBAL (BOCAS DEL TORO)

The "Help me to grow up" project of informal education was initiated as a pilot plan in the Island of San Cristóbal with the aim of contributing to the comprehensive development of children from two to five years of age with the active participation of the community and the parents, making use of such mechanisms of action as:

- Community promotion and training
- Food: Family orchards
- Health: Control of growth of immunizations
- Fostering development.

The Island of San Cristóbal is situated in the Province of Bocas del Toro and has some 240 inhabitants, 150 of whom participate voluntarily in an active and systematic manner in this project. At present, 60 women co-operate very actively in the conduct of the activities of this project.

These women participate in the programme with their children aged between two and five and remain for a period of three years during which the mother works for a few hours a week on a series of activities with her children; an assistant (voluntary leader) who has been previously trained by the executive agency, instructs the mother in the psycho-motor, cognoscitive and affective activities by means of weekly visits to her home. At the end of each week, the mothers get together in groups with their leader and analyse the various activities carried out during the week and participate in general educational activities of interest to their role as mothers.

When the leader visits the mother in her home she brings with her the teaching guide and the set of materials for the following week.

The leader plays with the mother a game, to teach her how to use the materials. The leader assistant and the mother play alternately the role of mother and child. This ensures that the mother will gain a complete familiarity with the materials. The mother is encouraged to participate within the limits of her possibilities, hence she constitutes the focal point of the project.

In addition to the educational work carried out by these women, they contribute to the cultural work by carrying out such activities as sowing and harvesting. Furthermore, they make clothes for their children and prepare meals for their own consumption and food for sale to improve the family income.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING

1. Efforts to promote building on the basis of self-help

Considerable facilities are granted for acquiring cheaper building materials in order to enable low-income families to build their own houses by their own efforts or with the help of neighbours. Moreover, the inhabitants are trained in elementary building techniques by the graduates of INAFORP who work in their own communities.

2. Population participation in the construction of housing

In the rural areas, there is a long-standing practice of constructing houses by means of self-help through the so-called "neighbours associations" in which all the members contribute to the building of their houses or those of neighbours; moreover, country dwellers, using the form of organization of the "asentamiento campesino", act together in co-operatives and help to build their own houses.

There are also communal and local "juntas" which are organizations legally recognized by law that carry out practical works such as drainage improvements, cleaning of the streets of a neighbourhood or a locality, latrine construction projects, etc.; the problems of a general character are examined by the "juntas comunales" and it is through these local bodies that various committees and certain types of co-operatives and other community bodies are linked with the whole process.

3. Housing and infrastructure in keeping with economic possibilities

Bearing in mind that housing is one of the most important aspects for the family, the State, through the Ministry of Housing, has endowed various communities in different areas of the country with comfortable houses, providing them at the same time with the basic infrastructure services such as water (supplied by means of provisional networks fed from wells or communal tanks), streets, rain-water drainage and electric lighting, with the participation of other municipal entities, other State bodies and the community itself.

4. Project for fully-equipped plots

The projects are practically all at the national level and serve to promote the building of homes by the families themselves by offering them all the services required by the community, such as the designing and laying out of streets, water supply and electric lighting. In the case of families with a greater purchasing power, a loan of materials is granted to enable them to build houses gradually.

5. Participation of the community with a view to assuring access to housing to low-income persons

An energetic organizational campaign at both the government and community levels is required to enable the poorest families to have access to a housing solution. Nevertheless, the various communities participate in this effort by attending seminars and talks ranging from the literacy courses for adults to training in the handling of wooden models and blocks through CINVA-RAM.

6. Training

The State, through the various government bodies such as the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Public Works and others, has been providing technical assistance to the communities in the building of houses, as well as in town planning; through the National Institute of Vocational Training it has trained staff with a multiplier effect, since the persons thus trained co-operate with the remainder of the community in the construction of their own houses; furthermore, it has supplied technical personnel to help in the building of such facilities as a rural aquaduct, artesian wells and others.

7. Improvement of the status of precarious occupiers

The Government, through the Ministry of housing, intervenes as mediator between the owners and the occupiers of invaded property; it participates from the very moment of the invasion by making a socio-economic census of the occupiers; it identifies the invaded properties and the owners thereof, negotiates the purchase of land at its Land Registry value and proceeds to determine the best way of utilizing the invaded site: subdividing it into plots, installing the infrastructure and conferring legal status to land ownership.

Lastly, those who possess an economic capacity to commit themselves in respect to the plot of land and the construction materials, are granted a "loan of materials" up to 3,000 balboas to begin the gradual construction of a house.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]
[7 September 1988]

In general, the State of Qatar supports the ideas set forth in the study by the Secretary-General entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor on development and in the full realization of human rights" (E/CN.4/1985/10 and Addenda). The concept of popular participation in the State of Qatar can be explained as follows:

The State of Qatar was established constitutionally, in accordance with the will of its people, as a social democratic State governed by the rule of law. As a logical result of the democratic nature of its political system, vital importance is attached to popular participation in the various aspects of the organization and operation of the country's institutions and, consequently, in the development of political rights.

The State has an obligation to ensure that any person whose human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated can apply to the courts of law and other bodies engaged in the administration of justice to claim fair compensation or appropriate satisfaction in respect of any harm that he may have suffered as a result of such acts.

Qatar's ultimate aim is to constantly improve the welfare of all its population through their full participation in the development process and the equitable distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.

SENEGAL

[Original: French]
[1 December 1987]

It is appropriate to mention other structures (apart from the Rural Community) set up by both rural and urban populations which contribute to the effective popular participation in development and in the exercise of this fundamental right.

These structures are:

- The 400 rural co-operatives and over 4,000 village sections whose members and executive organs fulfil all the exigencies of a veritable self-management;
- The village or inter-village peasant organizations which are structured and possess their own resources; they group adults, young persons (both sexes) to further self-development projects and who deal as a rule directly with the national or foreign partners;
- The 1,380 immense promotion groups, grouped together in national, regional departmental and local federations who favour productive activities capable of generating financial resources intended for carrying out socio-economic and cultural projects in the villages and neighbourhoods.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SECRETARIAT DEPARTMENTS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA

[Original: English]
[6 September 1988]

The report of the United Nations Council for Namibia entitled "Social conditions in Namibia" (document A/AC.131/285 of 25 July 1988)^{1/} and the Council's report on political developments related to Namibia (document A/AC.131/284 of 13 July 1988)^{2/} where there are references to South Africa's

^{1/} and ^{2/} These reports, in English, are available for consultation in the Secretariat.

repressive measures, state of emergency and martial law, show that the situation in Namibia does not foster popular participation as a factor in development and in the full realization of human rights and that the overwhelming majority of the people continue to be denied their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

[Original: French]
[11 August 1988]

The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cannot but recognize in a general way the impact of popular participation on development and on the realization of human rights, whether it is in respect of the development of personality or the control by human communities of their own destiny.

The area within its competence, the UNHCR endeavours, in co-operation with the Governments of the countries of asylum of the refugees and the non-governmental organizations which participate in the presentations of programmes of assistance to refugees, to promote the participation of the latter in the activities intended to improve their condition. Popular participation appears as one of the essential factors in bringing to an end the dependance which is cast upon them by circumstances and as a particularly vicious factor for the emergence of constructive attitudes with regard to any process aimed at facilitating the access of refugees to self-sufficiency and thereby restoring their dignity and their enterprising spirit.

It is for this reason that many projects, and in particular in the multisectoral projects intended for large groups of refugees, the latter are encouraged to participate either voluntarily or against remuneration, in all manner of activities which include the mending of roads or the opening of roads of access to the camps; the installation of sanitary infrastructures; vaccination campaign units, health care, drainage of used waters ...; distribution of food and the allocation of seeds; arrangements for the education of children of school age and all forms of organization of social life, with the aim of making the condition of the refugees more tolerable. In view of the interdependence of these various activities and the individual rights of the refugees, it goes without saying that popular participation by the refugees in their own development can only promote the realization of those rights.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]
[24 October 1988]

1. The Study is quite comprehensive and informative and, together with the comments and information from Member States and other United Nations agencies, expounds the historical and philosophical perspectives of popular participation in development and as a basic human right.

2. The Study demonstrates the widespread acceptance of popular participation as a necessary and accepted element of the decision-making process in a very large number of fields and thus reinforces the World Health Organization's (WHO) basic principle of the primary health care approach to health development which is centered on the involvement of individuals, families and communities.

3. The International Conference on Primary Health Care held in Alma-Ata, USSR, in September 1978 declares, inter alia, that primary health care:

Reflects and evolves from the economic conditions and sociocultural and political characteristics of the country and its communities and is based on the application of the relevant results of social, biomedical and health services research and public experience.

Requires and promotes maximum community and individual self-reliance and participation in the planning, organization, operation and control of primary health care, making fullest use of local, national and other available resources; and to this end develops through appropriate education the ability of communities to participate.

4. Progress in community involvement in health development is one of the 12 indicators of progress towards WHO's objective of Health For All that Member States regularly report to WHO. From this and the extensive work that WHO has been carrying out in the last decade, it can be said that much progress has been made. Community involvement has become a basic underlying priority which health professionals and administrators must consider in devising health programmes.

5. WHO's work involving research and development, regional and global monitoring of situations and trends are also revealing the basic challenges to people's involvement in their own health care and programmes. These can be summarized as follows:

5.1 Incompatibility between national planning machinery and process and the structures and processes necessary for participation. In health, this is further accentuated by the fact that most health services are structured in order to provide medical care and much less to provide initiative and leadership in health development as part of socioeconomic development, human rights and dignity.

5.2 Lack of skills within the health sector to initiate, support, guide and maintain the participatory process and the difficulties involved in learning from and working with other sectors such as school systems, community development and agriculture extension, as well as community groups.

5.3 The uniqueness of participation in any particular context is now well known. Therefore, there is no "proven methodology" for popular participation in health development. Nevertheless, participation in health or any other development cannot be merely announced in practice. It must be implemented methodologically. Health workers need to draw upon a range of potential methods in the practice of community involvement for health.

6. WHO is intensifying its efforts in finding solutions to these challenges, in particular through its focus on District Health Systems Based on Primary Health Care. The district (or any other comparable designation in a country), has been found to be a sufficiently large but manageable block of the national health system where national health policies and strategies can be harmonized with local needs, initiatives and resources and participatory methodologies necessary for the local situation and context can be developed and implemented.

7. The Study has correctly pointed out the paramount importance of information, education and training needed for meaningful popular participation to take place. This may be even more so in the health field where health science, technology and management has traditionally been relegated to the health sector alone. WHO's programme of Health Promotion and Health Education is designed to address this crucial aspect.

IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

[Original: English]
[10 September 1988]

Lions Clubs International is a firm believer in human rights. While it is a non-political organization, the organization is structured so that membership is open to all men and women of good report, without any consideration of race, creed or colour and/or national origin.

Lions Clubs exist in 163 countries or areas of the world and they are dedicated to the SERVICE of people less fortunate in their communities. The word SERVICE includes mental help, education, hospitals, pure water, wells for crops, civic improvement - parks, pools, cultural projects, eye banks, medical research and many other activities to help others that come within the financial ability of the local club and/or with the assistance of Lions Clubs International Foundation. The spirit of Lionism is in the words, WE SERVE, and the organization serves all peoples of the world without limitations except those of finance and the organization's ability to meet the required financial obligations.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOUSING AND PLANNING

[Original: English]
[14 July 1988]

The question of popular participation, although intensively discussed sometime ago in connection with the Federation's two main fields of concern, Housing and Urban/Regional Planning, has now to a large extent been brought down to a fairly technical level. The main discussion is then on how to structure and organize citizens' and residents' participation in the planning and implementation of their living environment. The "human rights" aspect has virtually disappeared from such discussions.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

[Original: English]
[21 July 1987]

The International Political Science Association Human Rights Group held a conference at The Hague, Netherlands, during June 1987 on the subject of Human Rights and Development. There was certainly a consensus at this international conference that the role of private/popular groups was extremely important for the protection of all sorts of internationally recognized human rights.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[Original: English]
[16 August 1988]

The year 1988 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of IULA - the International Union of Local Authorities - in the city of Ghent, Belgium in 1913. Since its inception, IULA has had as its main aims: to raise the standards of local administration and services; promote the welfare of citizens through more effective local government; defend the interests of local government in international governmental organizations; and foster citizen involvement in local government affairs. The members of IULA comprise local and regional government associations; individual cities; and local and regional government associations, authorities and ministries; as well as professional public service associations, educational and research institutes and individuals working in local and regional government or in training or research. All are committed to the strengthening of existing democratic local government institutions and to the establishment of decentralized local governments where they do not already exist.

A recent effort to promote and support local governments was taken by IULA at its world congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1985. On that occasion a World-Wide Declaration on Local Self-Government was adopted. Its purpose is to encourage national Governments to guarantee local self-government through a constitutional article or through some other kind of legal provision. This Declaration has been presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and is to be taken up by the Economic and Social Council at its meetings in 1989.

IULA has submitted this Declaration^{*/} as a statement of the commitment of local government practitioners and supporters of local government to the right of citizens to participate in public policy making and implementation and thereby to be worthy partners in the social and economic development of their respective countries.

^{*/} The full text of this Declaration, in English, is available for consultation in the Secretariat.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

[Original: English]
[2 October 1987]

The Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to draw attention to the Union's activities to enhance the participation of women in parliamentary life and in the decision-making process. To that end, reference is made to a Union's document entitled "Consideration of the information provided by the National Groups on the question of equality of rights and responsibilities between men and women, in conformity with the Union's resolutions on this subject" containing summaries of the replies and comments from the National Groups of the Union on the question of equal rights and responsibilities between men and women; the report is divided into two Sections: a section concerning the participation of women in political life and in the decision-making process, and another section concerning the promotion of equal rights and responsibilities for men and women in the years 1985, 1986 and 1987.

TRICKLE UP PROGRAM, INC.

[Original: English]
[7 July 1988]

The emphasis on human rights in development represents a return by the United Nations to a field in which it excelled in the 1950s when Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld proclaimed Community Development, which stressed popular participation to be a cornerstone of United Nations policy for social and economic development.

Now the United Nations is in a stronger position than ever before to regain leadership in the movement towards achieving human rights for all by stressing the participation of people in attaining that most important of human rights, freedom from poverty.

The Trickle Up Program is demonstrating in 100 countries that, with the eager participation of the poorest of the poor, poverty can be vanquished, and at costs so low that there are no fiscal impediments to the eradication of poverty in many parts of the world. If only one hundredth of one percent of the billions now spent on development were channelled to the poorest of the poor in programs of participatory development, poverty, like smallpox, could be a thing of the past.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LATIN NOTARIAT

[Original: French]
[20 September 1988]

It is a recognized fact that, in addition to the fundamental human rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration whose fortieth anniversary is being celebrated and in addition to the rights set forth in a number of

international and local conventions which have followed one another in the course of time, there exist other human rights, considered as those of the third or the fourth generation, which are no less important and which have attracted general interest.

Bearing in mind that among the fundamental rights recognized to man there is also the right to property, which is considered as a primordial element in the development of human freedom, it follows, as an indispensable corollary, that it is necessary to guarantee also the right to transmit property both by contract and by succession.

As regards contracts, it is a well-known fact that all too often a private individual is obliged to deal with partners much stronger than himself either because of their social position or their greater cultural advancement; the problem is still more grave when one of the contracting parties is a bank, a credit institution, an insurance company or a large industrial or commercial company.

The notaries of the Latin type, who practice their profession in four continents, and whose professional bodies set up on 2 October 1948 the International Union of the Latin Notariat, recognized as a non-governmental organization both by the United Nations and by a number of European and American international organizations, constitute, with regard to the situation described above, the best guardians for ensuring, for the benefit of private individuals, that equality between the contracting parties which constitutes a fundamental requirement for the right of ownership and disposition of property to be fully realized.

For indeed, in all the countries where Latin notaries practice their profession they are under a duty, which is moreover laid down by law, to sound their real intentions of the parties, to describe, particularly for the benefit of the less enlightened contracting parties, the legal, economic and fiscal consequences of the contract they propose to conclude, to draw up an instrument which reflects accurately the intentions of the parties and lastly, to keep that instrument for the necessary time as an indisputable piece of evidence of the will of the contracting parties.

This activity of the notaries, as impartial jurists at the centre of the contractual agreement, to guarantee that none of the parties takes advantage of another and that the contract is in conformity with the laws of the State and, where appropriate, with international law, contributes also in a significant manner to prevent litigation: this has led to the Latin notary being described as having an anti-litigation function.

Indeed, statistics show that instruments made out by notaries of the Latin type do not give rise to disputes whereas the other system of contracting, in which each of the parties is advised by its own lawyer, normally gives rise to numerous lawsuits.

The importance attached to the intervention of this impartial jurist has led certain economically developed countries, particularly in continents outside Europe, to adopt systems close to that of the Latin Notariat precisely because the greater security of which it offers to private persons, thereby protecting indirectly human rights in this specific sector, which is certainly not a secondary one.