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THE INDEPENDENT DAILY OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Boutros-Ghali calls for a new 'social contract'

Uphill to the summit



U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday called for a new social contract to help eradicate poverty and bridge the widening gap between the world's rich and poor.

Addressing the opening of the social summit, the Secretary-General said one should ask some searching questions about the track record of a world body created to bring peace and economic harmony to peoples all over the world.

"As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we should ask ourselves how seriously we have taken our charter commitments," he said.

The charter gives the U.N. the responsibility to improve the social and economic well-being of people the world over.

But 50 years - and thousands of U.N. resolutions later - about 1.3 billion people still continue to live in absolute

Reflection is not enough

by Thalif Deen

poverty and on the edge of starvation.

The Social Summit, which is to be attended by more than 100 world political leaders, will try to seek answers to reduce - and perhaps eradicate - poverty from the face of the earth.

The Group of 77 (G-77) developing nations admits this will be a daunting task and uses an apt mountain-climbing analogy for the summit process.

"We have all come here together to scale the same summit, to conquer the same mountain: that of human misery, wherever it may be, and whoever may be suffering it," said Cielito Habito, Philippine's secretary of socio-economic planning told delegates.

Speaking on behalf of China and 132 developing nations, Habito reiterated the Third World call for the creation of an International Fund for Social Development.

The Danish prime minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen told the plenary that while no country can claim to have solved its social problems, all countries have one thing in common: "Such problems are an offence to human dignity and a threat to mankind if they are not attended to in time."

"The true significance of the summit will be measured by what happens after the summit," he said. "The difference between the past and the future should be the increased awareness and mobilisation of resources for social development."

As the summit opened, near-

ly 500 representatives of NGOs turned up for only 140 tickets to enter the plenary and the main committee meetings.

"We arrived here from thousands of miles away, braved the bitter cold in Copenhagen and once we get here, we are told there are only a limited number of seats for NGOs," a visibly angry Amitava Mukherjee, head of the South Asian Development Caucus told Terra Viva.

"We would have had a riot on our hands," he said adding that most NGOs are called lobbyists because they interact with delegations to get their messages across. "But ironically, we are not even allowed to enter the lobby where we are expected to do the lobbying."

"If we don't do this, the very purpose of our participation in the summit is negated," he added.

Most activists attending the opening watched it on closed-circuit television in the lounge outside. They said the success or failure of the Social Summit will eventually be measured by the amount of resources made available to developing nations.

Ian McFarlane of the British group, Actionaid, said that unless the necessary mechanisms are set up for a summit follow-up, all the uphill climb of the summit would be wasted.

"They are calling the summit a reflection, but that is no good. We can't spend our time just thinking. It is too late now. Basically we don't have the time to think any more."

Sit up and take notice

During the week-long Social Summit, 210,000 children around the world will die from poverty-related hunger and disease.

Danish artist Jens Galschiot has decided to draw the attention of world leaders gathered here by scattering 500 limp, life-size rag dolls along Copenhagen sidewalks.

"I want to draw attention to the injustice and poverty that makes so many people die," says Galschiot. "The dolls are my way of vomiting."



As Seen On TV

Speeches, negotiations, people thronging the corridors, long queues in the lobby of the main conference hall. The Bella Centre was a hive of activity yesterday as the latest UN megaconference kicked off.

The queues began early and just kept growing as NGO representatives tried unsuccessfully to enter the hall.

The U.N. Department of Public Information (DPI) disclosed that 2,400 representatives of 1,299 NGOs had been registered up to yesterday as well as 2,818 journalists. There were no figures available on the official delegates.

As delegations devoted the morning to ironing out logistics, the NGO caucuses began their discussions. The negotiations began around midday.

In its first session, the Main Committee removed the first square brackets - a device used to mark parts of the declaration that still need to be agreed on or corrected.

The official number of heads of state and government due to attend is 119, but some are expected to pull out in the next few days. There was no official word on whether Cuban President Fidel Castro would turn up.

A journalist linked to Dansk Cubanisk Forening, a Danish NGO, announced said Castro and South African President Nelson Mandela are scheduled to participate at a rally on Saturday in the 3,000-capacity Falkoner Centret - entry fee 30 kr - but even he was not sure if Castro would be there



Africa's other voices

by Remi Oyo

There is little hope that undemocratic governments attending the Social Summit will come away from this gathering determined to do right by their people.

Many alternative voices from Africa warn that when they leave Copenhagen for home, they will be back in the trench warfare of civil society activism, facing governments that have little regard for accountability and an international financial system that does the continent few favours.

"As we say in Africa, you cannot shave a person's head in his absence, what has been done so far is that the peoples' heads are being shaved in their absence," Hassan Sunmonu, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Trade Unions told Terra Viva.

The multi-party wave crashed over Africa in the early 1990s, throwing up some odd looking democrats and leaving several former dictators still firmly in place.

"Part of the contributions of this summit should be the empowerment of the people to be able to determine their political, social and economic affairs," the trade unionist said.

"African leadership should be accountable to its people, if you are not accountable, then you cannot guarantee security."

Amira Jagne, Project Manager of the Association of Gambian Entrepreneurs has little optimism over the outcome of the conference. "I don't see much action coming from this summit ... there is too much talk already," she said.

According to Jagne, "concrete actions are needed to help entrepreneurs so that we can create more jobs especially for people, especially our women."

The plight of African women was also the concern of Glory Kilanko, representative of a Nigerian NGO helping to promote greater participation of women in decision-making.

Her organisation is also calling on the United Nations to "ban all African countries ruled by dictators (military or civilian) from attending its meetings until they set up a programme towards genuine democracy."

Fundação Cuidado Futuro Big business wants in to 'Poverty Summit'

TNCs spread the market message to doubters

Take care when playing the trading game

by Yvette Collymore

Transnational corporations, leaving nothing to chance, are spinning a glossy message at this week's poverty talks: the free market system is as useful as a hammer but liable to failure if mishandled.

The message is a familiar one made more urgent by the currency crisis in Mexico and the collapse of Britain's merchant banking group, Barings, which have prompted suggestions that restraints should be placed on speculative ventures.

"It's a usual thing to take a few of the failures and put the whole system in question," said Helmut Maucher, CEO of Nestle SA Switzerland.

Maucher spoke Monday at a forum at the poverty summit - which is meant to focus on the rising numbers of the world's poor people, 1.1 billion of whom live on about a dollar a day in developing countries, according to the United Nations.

The Mexican Employers' Confederation had a more cautious position. It warned that globalisation of the world economy - with the comple-

on of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks and the move towards trading blocs - had definite social implications.

The Confederation's Hector Larios Santillan told a forum on job creation that the real issue centred on attempting to turn around the realities of economic growth with high unemployment rates to the benefit of the worker.

Santillan stressed "the social obligation of companies in organising productive human work". He said the new era required programmes to train and re-train workers.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has teamed up with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to mount an offensive at the social summit. A joint ICC/IOE statement applauds the summit's documents for "the general objectives and the views expressed".

But outside of the conference rooms, many accuse the summiters of failing to

address such issues as the impact of trade on poor people, the expanding power wielded by multinational corporations, and the South's tiny share in world trade.

The joint statement of the ICC and the IOE nevertheless applauded the U.N. summit documents for "rightly" declaring that "entrepreneurs and enterprises create the wealth of nations".

Indeed, Ulf Laurin of the Swedish Employers' Confederation warned of the "crisis of the welfare state". He argued that social development could not be brought about without the free market economy and private ownership. It was a call that resonated in powerful capitals around the world.

Others, however, criticised the conference for not taking concrete steps to create a level playing field and more opportunities for credit, trade, and employment for marginalised communities, particularly in countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Lat Am call for social funds

by Maricel Sequeira

About 40 Latin American NGOs yesterday began a race against the clock to have a series of amendments incorporated into the final declaration and action programme of the official summit.

The Latin Americans were holding their first meeting since the NGO Forum opened its doors on Friday, also plan to issue today a declaration hinged on two points.

The first is a proposal that economic adjustment should include social investments since, according to Hector Silva of the Maquillishuatl Foundation of El Salvador, social programmes have so far been limited to plastering the wounds caused by adjustment but have not really looked at investment.

The second is a call for more participation by civil society in the implementation of social programmes and resource management.

The proposed amendments refer mainly to points in the draft declaration that have not yet been agreed on.

Sustainable confusion reigns

by Luis Cordoba

The word 'sustainable' pops up with amazing frequency in the Social Summit's draft declaration, usually in association with concepts like economic growth or development.

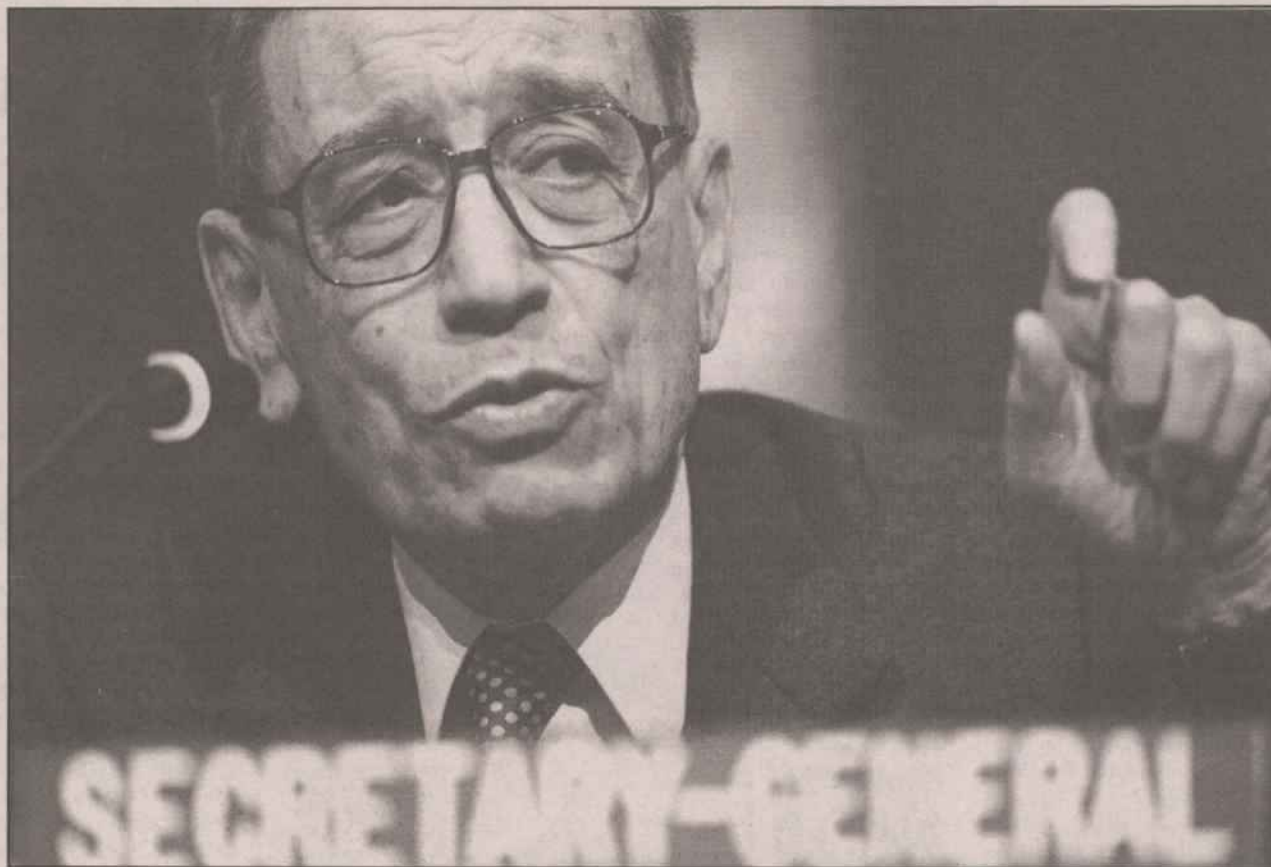
But green groups here are worried there is a dangerous confusion about the meaning of these terms.

"We are greatly concerned with the underlying conflict of assumptions and world views which ultimately undermine efforts to build and sustain societies," said the Environmental Caucus.

"This conflict is embodied in the dominant, paired principles of sustained economic growth, and sustainable economic development," the caucus pointed out in a document circulated at its first meeting, attended by 20 organisations.

"Whereas neither of these two major concepts is clearly defined within the documents, there is clearly a delicate dance around the contradictions which they foster."

One of these glaring contradictions, greens say, is the fact that the conclusion of GATT's Uruguay Round generated a wealth of enthusiasm "yet there is virtually no support among rich countries for implementing the agreements made at Rio".



Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em

Africa and the lenders

Are IMF and World Bank 'a necessary evil'?

by Kola Danisa

Africans may groan under the weight of structural adjustment imposed by the IMF and the World Bank, but their political leaders say the two institutions are a necessary evil even if the medicine they prescribe has led to increased poverty, joblessness and social disintegration.

Keli Walubita, Zambia's Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, said IMF adjustment programmes were designed to stimulate

economic growth but had severe negative effects on the most vulnerable groups in society.

He said the IMF World Bank economic development model for Africa was not packaged to ensure an "immediate improvement" in the living standards of the

people and that he did not believe in it, but he added: "We Africans have no choice really."

Why? Because the funds made available for development purposes by the two institutions are contributed principally by Western nations, which control them.

Africa's emerging democracies must provide relief packages for their people to cushion the effects of the Western development model, Walubita suggested.

"We should look at the long-term effects of the adjustment programmes," he said, expressing optimism that the Copenhagen summit would comprehensively address the issues of poverty and unemployment resulting from adjustment programmes.

For Ouedraogo Ablasse, Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, the way out for Africans is to develop their own strategies.

"Africans have to build their development models ourselves. We don't need outsiders to do that for us," he said.

Ablasse urged African countries to come together in their development strides, a view shared by Gabonese Minister of Social Affairs Sebastien Mouyama.

"The word is self-reliance, self-criticism and self-organisation," said Mouyama, who advised Africans not to reject the IMF package totally because it can provide them with positive gains such as technical skills and funds for economic development.

But like the unborn baby and the umbilical cord, the minister said, Africans should not distance themselves from their former colonial masters who continue to provide the drive for continental development efforts.

For Mouyama, South Africa is now the continent's hope for rapid industrialisation. "Nigeria, which we had always looked up to, is currently facing some problems," he said.

On the weighty issue of Africa's external debt, the minister did not foresee forgiveness by the Western nations and other industrial states. "We have to negotiate with our creditors," he said.

Challenge and scepticism

Homegrown solutions for Africa

by Anacleto Rwegayura

Scepticism and the need for homegrown strategies to deliver basic social services filled the minds of African delegates as the Social Summit got underway here yesterday. The state of underdevelopment that characterises nearly the whole continent notwithstanding, Africa was also experiencing the widening gap between the rich and the poor, some of the delegates told Terra Viva.

Africans admit they are faced with many challenges of development, but as Swaziland's Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Themba N. Masuka, pointed out: "We just don't do what we are supposed to do."

Masuka, who is the current chair of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries linked to the European Union under the Lome Convention on aid and trade, said the summit should be a turning point.

"If there are areas where Africans would excel, let the world support them. Africans should try and promote their own cause," he said.

With the global competition of ideology ended, Masuka urged African governments to

create a conducive environment for African experts working in industrialised countries to go back home and help in directing the development process of their countries.

"Somebody must come up after two or five years and say: my country has achieved this or that in eradicating poverty, creating employment or promoting human rights," he said.

Looking back to the U.N. summits of Rio de Janeiro on the environment and Vienna on Human Rights, the Swazi minister was disappointed to note that the abuse of human rights persisted unabated worldwide.

Unemployment

"What bothers me most is unemployment - one of the major causes of violence in our countries. It is fundamental that if we make commitments at this summit, but we should be able to follow up in future and evaluate the implementation of our decisions," he said.

A Tanzanian delegate, however, doubted the possibility of all nations represented at the summit to harmonise their positions.

Partnership in development meant equality, but when the donors' demands superseded the recipient's priorities, he said, "our development process becomes donor-driven".

African leaders endorsed the continent's common position on human and social development at their summit meeting in Tunis in June 1994.

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Assistant Secretary General Pascal Gayama told Terra Viva yesterday: "We believe that without economic development, there will be no significant social development."

According to Gayama, the process of sustainable social development would not become a reality in Africa, unless the continent's pressing concerns of indebtedness, insufficiency of capital inflows and official development assistance and fair trade relations with the North were addressed first.

Meaningful development, he said, should aim at placing the human being in the position of enjoying human rights.

"In Africa, we should rely more on ourselves. We should pool the rich resources on our continent for our common good and create a common market before looking for assistance from external partners," he said.

Ethiopia's Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr Duri Mohammed, said nobody but Africans themselves would solve their own development problems.

External aid should supplement domestic efforts and resources, said Duri whose country is struggling to free itself from a legacy of dependence on food aid as a result of war and cyclic famine.

He said food self-sufficiency, a national target in the next five years, would be Ethiopia's first step toward eradication of mass poverty.

After undergoing economic, political and administrative decentralisation in the last four years of a transitional government, Ethiopia expects a five percent growth rate in its economy this year.

No summit fatigue for Boutros-Ghali

by Thalif Deen

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday denied that the United Nations was hosting too many conferences and implementing too few of their declarations.

"If there are no U.N. conferences, they will complain there aren't enough of them," he told journalists.

Boutros-Ghali was responding to reports that Western states want a moratorium on U.N. mega-gatherings because they are both a waste of time and a waste of resources.

Addressing reporters just after his speech to the plenary, he said it was incorrect to dismiss the Social Summit as another occasion for "empty rhetoric".

At the last General Assembly session, proposals for at least three U.N. conferences - on international migration, on South-South cooperation and on development financing - were shelved because of Western opposition.

The West also complains that every time a U.N. conference is held outside New York, it downgrades the importance of the 185-member General Assembly, the highest policy-making body at the United Nations.

But Boutros-Ghali pointed out that the series of recent U.N. conferences - the Earth Summit in 1992, the Human Rights Conference in 1993 and the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 - were interlinked.

With the women's conference in Beijing coming up in September, he said the meetings will maintain a momentum that was generated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

He argued that the implementation of decisions taken at conferences take time.

"I don't want to be negative. But one cannot solve problems in a few months. It takes about 10-years to finish a degree," he said.

Boutros-Ghali also denied that the absence of three world leaders - all representing veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council - was no slap in the face for the United Nations.

"I was in contact with them. Their intention was to attend the conference. But their absence does not mean they will not implement the resolutions that come out of the summit," Boutros-Ghali said.

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The opinions expressed in Terra Viva do not necessarily reflect the official



The balance of economic power

Opinion

That this summit is about poverty is clear. What is less so is that it will tackle the power structures that create and perpetuate poverty. The draft declaration and programme of the action are eloquent on many of the root causes of poverty.

They call for a favourable national and international economic environment. They slap Structural Adjustment Programmes on the wrist, urging that a strong social dimension be included. They paint a pretty comprehensive picture of how poverty is caused by unemployment and exclusion, be it related to gender, ethnicity, disability or other factors.

Yet there are no firm commitments to change by the real powerbrokers. Much of the summit participants' ire has been aimed at the World Bank. "The Bank is not perfect," Vice President Armeane Choksi told Terra Viva - a statement that would have received a standing ovation had it been made at the NGO Forum.

But, more importantly, the World Bank is not a

free agent. Governments make up its Board of Executive Directors. Over and above the money it raises for loans, it receives some 10 billion dollars from donors to extend in soft loans and technical assistance. This is twice the amount made available to the development programmes and funds of the U.N. system.

Why? Donors say they prefer the weighted voting system. They argue that the Bank is efficient and

es and peoples. In fact, the present system suits the powers that be. It is estimated that 20 percent of the world's population have more than 85% of economic opportunities like trade, investment or commercial credit. (And no prizes for guessing where they reside). To them, the cost of change would be enormous. Several SAP

saying how important it was for the Jordanian market to be more open to U.S. products. Little Jordan, with its scarce resources and population of four million!

Trade not aid, urges the U.N. Development Programme's Human Development Report, in its often radical proposals for redressing the imbalance of power. Ron Brown has certainly picked up on the first recommendation - and Newt Gingrich on the second!

Many voices are calling for more radical change than that offered at this summit. The Oslofjord Declaration presented to NGOs on Sunday by the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development blasts the "predominant neo-liberal market system as a universal model for development".

The private citizens and government officials who signed the Oslofjord Declaration can be ignored by vested interests. But can

Japan? Just before the summit, the Japanese government declared its intention to promote its own development model, based on protecting national industries until they are competitive and other such heresies. And Japan can put its money where its mouth is.

A call for new approaches was also made at the United Nations World Hearings on Development, now summarised in a useful book by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. A note by S.R. Insanally, the President of the 48th General Assembly, introducing the summary, states: "The tasks of global economic policy coordination and determination have also come to be assumed exclusively by groups such as the G7 and OECD.

The real development decisions are made outside the U.N. and will continue to be made there unless the organization is reformed." Reform the U.N. by all means. It needs it. But that will still not make the 20 percent of the world's "haves" give up even a tithe of the 85 percent they control to the "have-nots".



effective. But that flies in the face of the mounting evidence - available since the mid-1980s - of the harm SAPs were doing to many developing economi-

prescriptions - trade liberalisation, privatisation - suit them just fine too. On a recent visit to Jordan, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was quoted as

model for development".

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

The United Nations can, if...

The World Summit for Social Development should be an occasion to revitalise the U.N. to better serve a world that has been transformed by racing technological innovation and globalisation.

From the viewpoint of the receding Industrial Age, the United Nations seems to be losing power. Actually, it is well-positioned to address the needs of the fast-dawning Information Age, and the global civil society that it has made possible.

Technological innovation currently outruns the innovation needed to manage social and environmental costs, and nowhere is this "social innovation lag" more obvious than today's computerized, global "information highways".

These information networks have allowed for the emergence of a global civil society. But they have also contributed to the creation of today's global capital markets - a "financial cyberspace" where currency and bond traders daily move more than one trillion dollars across national borders, reducing elected the sovereignty of elected governments over domestic policy.

Governments can control neither the activities of this emerging civil society nor transnational corporations - unless they re-invent the role of the U.N. and their own collective responses to global change.

Already many global corporations and sclerotic central governments are adjusting to the meet the requirements of the new world, down-sizing, decentralizing, and restructuring themselves. The United Nations should follow suit.

The social and environmental costs after decades of using the obsolete GNP-growth recipe are now falling due. Social safety-nets are shredded, education, health and welfare budgets are slashed, as joblessness increases and environmental laws are weakened to reassure central banks, global capital markets and investors hungry for GNP-growth.

Politicians, meanwhile, abdicate responsibility for local conditions, citing "global competitiveness".

The Social Summit presents a historic opportunity for the U.N. to retool and better address these problems. The world body is ideally suited to its roles as global convener, networker, broker and standards-setter, building agendas and fostering research and agreements to manage the resources of the planet: oceans, atmosphere, electromagnetic spectrum, satellite orbits and biodiversity.

These are vital services for both the functioning of markets and furthering human, sustainable development. In many cases the U.N. can and should enter into new public-private partnerships, such as INTELSAT, in order to explo-



Comment by Hazel Henderson

re and perfect new functions, much as the Bretton Woods Institutions did in 1945.

The U.N., however, should receive compensation to enable it to perform its new tasks and I - and other members of the Global Commission to Fund the UN - believe that its funding must be augmented by:

- Assessing interest payments on arrears and suspension of voting rights.
- Issuing and marketing UN bonds with the private sector.
- Levying at least a .001 percent fee on all international currency transactions to shift markets toward longer-term investments, reduce speculation and allocate proceeds in a transparent, accountable manner to U.N. programmes for human development.
- Levying fees for use of the global commons, "sin taxes" on pollution, toxic waste, excessive depletion of natu-

ral resources, thus lowering the relative cost of labour and payroll taxes.

- Downsizing and restructuring the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, while bringing them back into the U.N. fold - their missions should be re-targeted toward sustainable human development, starting with cancellation of debts of the most indebted countries.

- Reducing, by taxation or other means, international arms and drug trafficking and authorizing the proposed new public-private U.N. Security Insurance Agency to offer "insurance policies" to countries wishing to remain secure while cutting defense budgets. The "premiums" on these "policies" would be used to permanently fund a standing, professional U.N. peace-keeping force.

Member-states, who still run the U.N. must face up to the changes in today's world. The world body no longer is merely a "trade association" of nations in which members states control the agenda by withholding dues.

Nations cannot continue to "use" the U.N. to justify national foreign policy actions or to send peace-keeping forces into impossible situations they would rather avoid, such as Bosnia, Somalia, or Rwanda.

The U.N. now has many other constituents: the global civil society composed of private, voluntary, non-govern-

mental organizations (NGOs) as well as business enterprises. All are powerful constituencies within member countries as well and would oppose short-sighted policies like "starving" the U.N. - as advocated by some members of the U.S. Congress!

Grassroots and civil society groups in most countries - North and South - meanwhile are demanding new codes of conduct for global corporations. Many, including the Commission on Global Governance, the Global Commission to Fund the U.N., parliamentarians in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and other countries support new agreements to tame global capital markets.

The traditional evaluation tools - GNP and CAPM (Capital Asset Pricing Models) - must take into account social and environmental costs.

The Social Summit can be the Summit for the 21st Century, opening a global debate about how to create markets and technology which serve people, rather than dominate them.

Alternative ways of funding and restructuring the U.N. were the focus of a special issue of "Futures, the journal of forecasting planning and policy", edited by Henderson, Harlan Cleveland and Inge Kaul, and launched at the summit yesterday.

UNDP to the rescue

by Louis Cordoba

Politely poking a finger in the eye of the Bretton Woods institutions, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) announced yesterday it was championing the development of socially responsible adjustment programmes.

Proposing a "world crusade against poverty" UNDP Administrator James Speth said "a broader socially responsible package for adjustment" was needed and he would hold discussions with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund towards that end.

The UNDP has been sympathetic to the plight of countries pursuing structural adjustment programmes. Particularly in Africa, they have led to social sector decline and falling standards of living.

Speth said financial resources would be the toughest issue at the Social Summit.

"Where are those resources going to come from?" he asked, recalling that development aid, for example, has diminished while Third World debt is close to two trillion dollars. What investment is available has gone mainly to a small group of countries, which are not the neediest.

Speth said "the success of this Summit will require the full partnership of civil society, NGOs and, far more than in the past, the private sector." He added that the final target could be summed up in one word: equity.

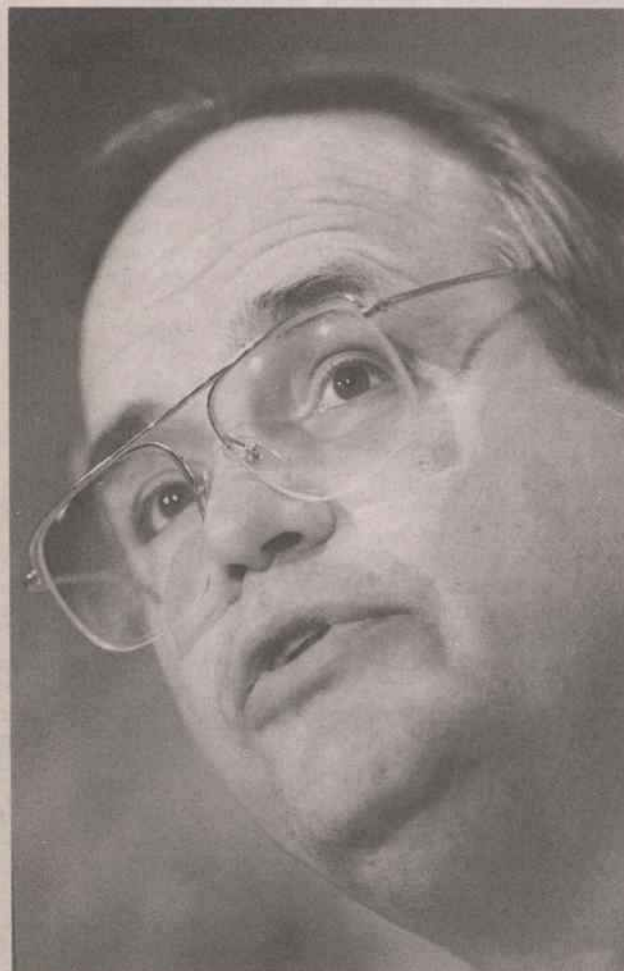
Speth said his organisation would devote itself to ensuring that the follow-up to the summit is as adequate as possible.



TV crews keep a close eye on the speakers at the Bella Centre yesterday. Picture by Klaus Holsting.

sible.

However, he did not comment on whether the UNDP would be specifically assigned this task, limiting himself to saying that "there will be many institutions involved in the follow-up."



James Speth

Read all about it - Online

Terra Viva reaches out into the Internet

From Copenhagen to Cyberspace

by Johanna Son

You don't have to be in Copenhagen to keep abreast on what's happening at the NGO Forum or the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD).

From half a world away, you can keep in touch with the latest news and pictures coming out of the conference through the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), which runs a communications center at the NGO Forum at Holmen and the Bella Center.

The sign "Live from Copenhagen" welcomes users who log on to the APC network for the WSSD.

APC, which works with major U.N. conferences, has facilities for sending and receiving electronic mail all over the world, databases about the summit, access to Internet and

training sessions.

APC carries three publications on WSSD, including Terra Viva which it sends out through the Internet. The Internet, fast becoming the world's communication highway, has 50 million users.

Through its own member and partner networks, APC serves as the network for information and feedback about the social summit, stimulating 'mini-summits' on social issues around the world.

Users can send letters to the editor through the APEC network and NGOs can do "distant lobbying" with their governments through the network as well.

"We're trying to reach out to the social change sector," Rory O'Brien of the APC Info Team at the WSSD says of the fact that APC's mem-

bers are mostly non-governmental organisations linked to its local or regional networks.

APC, with 25,000 users in full member networks and partner networks in some 50 countries, is the most extensive global computer network in the world that serves the needs of NGOs and campaigners on development issues.

For activists in the developing world it is an affordable link to hi-tech communication, having been formed in 1990 to help address the information imbalance skewed in favor of rich countries and commercial users.

Technology, is "driven by the North," Brien said. "Our aim is to support the networking of people and organisations working for social change."

Unlike traditional networks

in the First World that users log on to chat about just about anything, information on the APEC network mostly has to do with issues like women, the environment, poverty and other social concerns.

Often APC partner networks are the only e-mail access for NGOs in their countries.

On Wednesday, representatives of various women's groups will discuss the importance of information technology in the North-South dialogue. There will be representatives from Argentina, Zimbabwe, the United States, Senegal, Vietnam and Senegal and Canada.

The press conference is scheduled for 13:30-15:00 at the NGO press centre, Holmen.

On the
Way Up By

Summiteer

We hear there is an informal burglar alert in provincial Denmark since most of the constabulary has been deployed for Summit security.

The Danish press has given considerable play to the public poll in which three fourths of all Danes polled said they did not think much would come out of the summit.

The conservative Berlingske tidende paper wouldn't help being snide. Headline above picture of fireworks on the first day of the NGO forum: 'Fireworks for the Poor'. Caption: 'A fiery orgy in the evening sky was in screaming contrast to the serious issues being discussed at the summit'. (Unofficial translation)

And if you will believe the tabloid, Extra Hadet, Copenhagen's escort services are doing roaring business. A story titled 'Slap for the Summit' says that after a "hard day of meetings" delegates like to be "dominated".

"We are ready, we are armed to the teeth. But it looks like we have a lot of competition from amateurs, they are bringing the prices down."

In the same issue, the paper has another story: 'Ready for the Summit' in which it profiles Copenhagen prostitute who says she is servicing up to 15 customers a day. "Security is high priority," she is quoted as saying. "We are preparing for a hard week of labour."

Aside from the cold, if there is one thing that makes this summit stand out from past peaks it is the singular lack of international coverage. In the run-up to Rio you couldn't turn a page without a piece on the ozone hole. Vienna was Dalai Lama and Cairo was the Pope. Copenhagen? A northern wire which shall remain nameless finally moved a curtainraiser from Stockholm a week ago, and I quote: "The biggest meeting ever on the world's haves and havenots still has not caught fire." Wonder why. Could it be because our colleagues in the western press have not been fired up? its all changed now, of course. This week they've all turned into bracket-chasers.

Sitting quietly in the audience at a panel discussion on Sunday listening to the man from the World Bank was Mohammad Yunus of Bangladesh's small-is-beautiful Grameen Bank.

While the World Bank talks in billions of dollars, Grameen has over the past 15 years been lending a handful of takas to poorest women in rural Bangladesh to buy a water buffalo here or a sewing machine there. Nearly two million people, mostly women, have seen their living standards rise and 90 percent have paid back their loans.

Later in the corridor, we overheard a senior World Banker tell a colleague from UNICEF: "You shouldn't try to run down the world Bank, otherwise it will be war."



Looking for the brackets at the Bella Centre. Picture by Klaus Holsting

WHO statement makes it official:

Poverty makes you sick

Both rich and poor countries are affected

by Anna Borzello

It's official: poverty makes people sick.

The World Health Organisation, in a report for the World Summit on Social Development, says "for millions of people, poverty remains the main obstacle to health."

The report makes distressing reading. It says that in spite of improvements in global indicators in terms of access to health care and so on, there was a widening gap between poor and rich nations. Within countries themselves, the rich-poor dichotomy was worsening.

In Africa one child in four below the age of five suffers from malnutrition. The figure for Asia is two in five, Latin America one in ten. Some 80

million children between the ages of 10 and 14 are employed in work that interferes with their normal development. Another 30 million live in city streets.

Social exclusion of certain groups has led to 300,000 deaths a year from alcohol cirrhosis. A further 20 million street girls inhale solvents.

The report defines poverty as "lack of access to proper food, water and shelter, and therefore greater vulnerability

to disease". The condition also entails lack of information and access to safe, effective and affordable health care.

"It is a vicious cycle," says the report. "Poverty is often caused or perpetuated by ill-health."

Around the world there is overemphasis on free market economic policies, a trend the WHO terms "the Globalisation of the economic system." Accompanying this is social disintegration and inevitable

deterioration in health.

Both rich and poor countries are affected, according to the report. It cites tuberculosis as an example of the shared health problems between North and South.

The disease is re-emerging as a major one in poor and industrialised countries. It is often linked to HIV/AIDS infection which is highest amongst the most vulnerable groups.

The Geneva-based U.N. agency is calling for intersectoral collaboration with a focus on ensuring the empowerment of women as the most vulnerable and also the group whose wellbeing also affects that of children. The effect of poverty on health. P14.

Post-summit parley in Buenos Aires

by Marcela Valente

Latin American social affairs

ministers will meet in

Buenos Aires in May to analyse the results of the Social Summit from a regional perspective.

Argentina's Eduardo Amadeo said the meeting, to be held on May 4, will also be a follow-up to one the ministers held in January in Santiago de Chile to look at mechanisms for cooperation between their countries.

Amadeo, who is his country's Secretary of Social Development, explained that Latin American nations had to give a regional dimension to their various social policies and place special emphasis on efficient resource management.

Argentina is the country with the biggest increase in per capita social spending in the past five years, says the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

It is also the nation where the gap between rich and poor has decreased the most. But although it commits 19.4 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to social spending, more than 10 million Argentinians - a third of the population - are poor. Since 1990, unemployment has risen from six to 12 percent of the active population, while 10 percent are underemployed.

Its delegation here also hopes to garner support for a proposal by President Carlos Menem to create an international

force of White Helmets to

fight poverty and hunger

throughout the world even if Menem himself has not been able to attend the summit.

The proposal was approved by the U.N. General Assembly in December and received the support of 34 presidents at the Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in the same month. The programme would be financed by governments, NGOs, private firms and individual contributors.

Amadeo said Argentina is specially interested in getting the summit's final declaration to include a criticism of the "double language" of the developed countries which finance development and anti-poverty projects, but maintain ironclad barriers to free international trade.

Amadeo said his country maintained close links with non-government groups. But even as he spoke, Elizabeth Susuki, head of Argentina's Susuki Foundation, was battling valiantly to get past the wall between the delegates' meeting rooms and the main hall at the Bella Centre.

"I want to contact the official delegation to present them with our contribution to human resource formation but the guard did not let me pass," said Susuki, whose foundation helps the handicapped. "It's a pity to travel so many thousands of kilometres, make such an effort to come and be confronted with such poor results."

Africa Divided we fall

by Ruby Ofori

When dealing with their former colonial masters at international fora, African governments tend to cling to narrow national interests rather than make a common stand.

Things are no different in Copenhagen.

However, at least here, at the Social Summit, there is awareness of the problem, and hope for a change.

"It's a bad thing," said a Togolese delegate waiting on the security queue at the Bella Conference Centre. "We are weak that's why we are divided. This lobbying for national interests ... gets us nowhere."

All African countries are afflicted by poverty and face similar developmental concerns. Yet there is ample evidence to show that governments prefer what one delegate described as "the Balkanization" approach to solving their problems.

Because Western governments now insist on rewarding those who can prove they are implementing "good governance," and diligently pursuing market reforms, barring a few exceptions, Africans are falling over themselves to fit the mould.

France

"Take my country," said a delegate. "If we get 10 dollars more for good governance and France says we will not give country x anything because of bad governance, we will not support country x even though we know the differentiation is not true."

The organisation of African Unity is presenting a report to the summit - the culmination of meetings between African governments in New York and Paris.

The reports blames poverty in Africa on development policies unsuited to the continent. It says democracy is a Western imposition and calls for a deeper analysis of the types of democratic institutions that would most suit African societies.

It speaks of growing social disintegration and marginalisation caused by unemployment and a breakdown in health delivery leading to the resurgence of preventable diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and cholera.

The report calls for an increase in the price paid by Western companies for African raw materials. It also calls for debt relief. The extra income could be invested in their ailing economies, the report suggests.

These are region-wide concerns that have been heard again and again at international meetings. Yet, away from the conference huddles, its the business as usual attitude of 'each country for itself and God for us all.'

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

EVENTS

7th

MARCH

Please check with the posters "Today's Events" for the daily updates, furthermore check the "Flight Schedule" - this schedule contains the absolute latest updates.

Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Denmark

1) Structural adjustment policy, soc. dev. and the role of women in trade unions
Organizers: KAD, LO, SiD, HK, DBTF, PMF
09:00 - 16:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
C,2,06*

International People's Health Council

1) The World Health Crisis: Causes and Possible Solutions
Trends in health problems and policies. Structural adjustment and World Bank policies.
17:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English
H,1,42

NGO Committee on UNICEF

1) Women and Children in Poverty - which way out?
Women, children, poverty, empowerment, gender equity.

09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English, Danish, French
C,3,30*

Community Development Research Foundation (CODER-FO)

2) Adolescent Sexuality in Tanzania
Reproductive health and AIDS situation
11:00 - 12:45
Other
English
C,2,11*

Centre Béninois pour le Développement des Initiatives Ō la Base

2) Droits de l'homme
Droits de l'homme, environnement, femmes, pauvreté, développement, intégration sociale/video facilities.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
French
C,2,16*

Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Denmark

2) Structural adjustment policy, soc. dev. and the role of women in trade unions
Organizers: KAD, LO, SiD, HK, DBTF, PMF
17:00 - 18:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
C,2,06*

NGO Committee on UNICEF

2) Women and children in poverty - which way out?
Women, children, poverty, empowerment, gender equality.
15:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English, Danish, French
H,1,40*

Den Danske Komite for Kurdernes Menneskerettigheder

4) Social Welfare and Development - an option for Kurds? - Case: Syria
Human Rights Violation; minority Rights us. integration; cultural, civil & economic oppression.
13:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,2,15*

Association de Développement Communautaire Mokili-Mwinda

ADECOM's Goals
ADECOM's contribution in Social Development.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
French
C,2,13*

International Coalition for Development Action

An Alternative Report on Trade: beyond the Social Summit
Contents of the ICDA.
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop

English
C,2,16*

Dutch NGO-Platform Social Summit

Briefing Dutch NGO's - Dutch delegation
Any relevant issue. Daily briefing
NGO's - Dutch delegation
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English
C,3,29*

Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for Advancement of Women

Caribbean Music as a vehicle for Social Integration
Social Integration.
13:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,4,33

Center for Respect of Life and Environment

Celebrating sustainable livelihoods
Creation of sustainable livelihood, presentation of regional conclusion result.
17:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English
C,2,17*

Society for Int. Develop., Italy

Celebrating sustainable livelihoods
Human Security & Sustainable Human Development.
13:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,31*

Evergreen Club of Ghana

Children and our environment
The role of children in health and sanitation control.
11:00 - 12:45
Other:
English
D,2,34A

Det Danske Baha'i Samfund, Danish Baha'i Community

Children's Forum
The role of young in social integration.
09:00 - 12:45
Other
English
C,2,17*

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Dawn's Perspective on the Summit: An integrated Approach
Poverty, Social Integration, Population, Environment, Development
09:00 - 12:45
Other
English
G,2,39

Europabevægelse, Den danske Kvindekomiteen

Declaration of European Citizens and the Rights of Minorities
The Declaration.

Scheduled by the Danish NGO Forum Host Committee

Keynote-speakers

During the NGO Forum the host committee will present a number of Keynote-speakers at the Conference Hall in the Global Village.

Tuesday March 7, 11.00-12.45 am: Environment and Social Development

Keynote-Speaker: Anil Agarwal fra New Delhi, India, editor of "Down to Earth", leading news magazine on environmental in Southeast Asia.

Anil Agarwal will discuss the link between social problems and sustainable development. He is particularly concerned with the environmental consequences of the rapidly developing financial situation in China, India and the other Asiatic tigers.

Scheduled by Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke.

March 8, 11.00-12.45 am: Women

Keynote-Speaker on women's issues - focus on Prostitution as a social problem
Chair: Aase Reick Sørensen, NGO Host Committee

Anika BASAK, International Abolitionist Federation: Traffic in persons and sexual exploitation of women and children - in global perspective"

DORIT OTZEN, manager of "Reden", YWCA's Social Work.

March 9, 9.00 am-1.00 pm:
Beyond the Summit
-Shared Responsibilities for a Scared World
Organized by ICSW

Conference Agenda

9.00- 9.05 am
Welcome:
Welcoming remarks by ICSW President Dirk JarrÇ, and introduction of the Danish Minister

9.05-9.15 am
Opening of the Conference:
By Danish Minister of Social Affairs, Karen Jespersen

9.15-9.20 am
Introduction of Panel and Moderator:
Introduction by President of AISEC International

9.20-10.20 am
Moderator (Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, sister of President Ramos, Philippines) conducts panel of three speakers. Each speaker gets 20 minutes.
Speaker 1: Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources, Canada

Speaker 2: Mahbub ul-Haq, Special Advisor, UNDP
Speaker 3: Wangari Maathai, Coordinator, Kenyan Green Belt Movement

10.20-11.00 am
Moderator conducts session open to the floor.

11.00-11.05 am
Introduction of Panel and Moderator: Introduction by AIESEC International

11.05-12.05 am
Moderator conducts panel of three speakers. Each Speaker gets 20 minutes.

Speaker 1: Business representative (Bill Gates, Microsoft, and Oliver Giscard D'Estaing have been invited by AIESEC)

Speaker 2: Minister Jay Naidoo, Minister of Reconstruction and Development, South Africa
Speaker 3: Jaques Delors
Also invited but not confirmed: Rigoberta Menchu

12.05-12.55
Moderator conducts "Question and Answer Session" open to the floor.

12.55-13.00
Closing of Conference:
Closing Remarks by Ambhorn Meesook or Hemsing Hurrinag (ICSW)

Social Democratic Party
"Storbyens Marginalgrupper"

13.00 - 14:45
Other
English
G,1,35

Anti-Slavery International
"Women as Property - Women and Property"
Child marriage. Marriage affecting the rights of women.

13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,09*

March 8, 9.00-10.45:

NGO plenary-meeting.

- Panel discussion

- Questions-answer session about negotiations in the governmental process

Place: B, 1, 05 (Conference hall, Global Village)





11:00 - 12:45

Workshop
English
C,2,16*
Association des Villages Moukandi pour L'environnement et le Dev.

DEcouverte de AVMED au Gabon
Banque mondiale pour les ONG.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
French
C,3,24*

Society for Protection of Plants Animals and Human-Life

Degrading the social standard of youth in developing countries
Problems and possible solutions to the issues above.
13:00 - 14:45
Video film
English
C,3,22*

European Baha'i Business Forum

Developing an Ethical Business Environment
Facilitators: Dr Dorothy Marcic, Mrs Diane Starcher, and Dr Wendi Momen
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,2,11*

Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperati-

on

Development Caucus
Daily briefing
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English, Danish
B,1,03*

De samvirkende Invalideorg. DK Council of org. of Disabled

Disability Movement's Focal Point
Briefings on the Social Summit and disability issues. Daily announcement of meetings and workshops on disability.
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English, Danish
B,1,02*

Peter Hesse Foundation

Early childhood education in and for ONE world
Learning goals, criteria and guidelines for quality preschool
15:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
C,3,30*

Foodfirst Information & Action (Network), Int'l.

Economic Human Rights, Challenges for the Social Summit
How Economic, Social, and Cultural Human Rights related to the Summit Agenda could be improved.
13:00 - 14:45
Conference
English, Spanish
H,1,40*

Soroptimist International i DK

Educating girls and women the best investment
17:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English
C,2,08*

Skolesamvirket Tvind De internationale Efterskoler

Education of the teenager generation - carriers of the future
International teacher training - an important material.
15:00 - 16:45
Other
English
C,3,20*

International Organisation of Consumers Unions UK

Empowering disadvantaged consumers
Who are the disadvantaged consumers, why are they disadvantaged, how consumers' organisations can and have overcome disadvantage.
13:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,21*

Development Education Centre

Empowering grassroot women to create local financial institutions
19:00 - 20:45
Conference
English
C,3,30*

Partiet Familien

En styrkelse af Familien i Danmark of i EU
Økonomisk, kulturelt, udviklingsmæssigt. Ret til at forme sin egen tilværelse, uden bureaukratiets tunge hånd.
13:00 - 14:45
Other
Danish
C,3,19*

Overseas Development Council

Eradicating Absolute Poverty: What role for the int. development institutions?
Poverty, employment, social integration.
19:00 - 20:45
Conference
English
C,2,18*

OXFAM - U.K.

Exclusion and Exploitation Rights in the Development Process
Employment, Gender, Ethnicity, Participation and Health interalia.
09:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English
H,1,43

Euro-Step European Solidarity Towards Equal Participat. of People

Exclusion and exploitation: Rights in the development process
Employment, gender ethnicity, parti-

cipation and health.

13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,14*

EpoG - Entwicklungspolitische Gesellschaft e.V.

Experience in East-West Development Policy - Crises of Development Policy
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English, French
C,3,23*

West Wind Collections AAM-UTUULI R.Y

Fair Trade-Nordic Trade Nordic Trade UNK Project
Fair Trade Mutual Aid and co-operation.
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*

Center for Women's Global Leadership

From Vienna to Beijing: Copenhagen Hearing on Econ. Justice & Women's Human Rights
Women's Social and Economic Rights. Hearing on Economic Justice & Women's Human Rights
13:00 - 16:45
Other
English
B,1,05*

Fundacion Salvadorena de Desarrollo y Vivienda Minima FUNDASAL de 1968 to 1995

Poverty, social integration and development
17:00 - 18:45
Video film
English
C,3,21*

Ananda Marga Germany

Give your Heart to Africa
19:00 - 20:45
Music
English
D,1,34

El Taller

Governance and Diversity
Good Governance and the NGO Community.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English, French
H,1,42

Association des Educateurs pour la Pro.de l'enseignement Primaire

How to improve the action of NGO's in developing countries
How to enhance NGO's self sufficiency. / + Music.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English, French
C,3,26*

Associacao Agencia Terra

Huge reforestation projects with eucalyptus in Brazil: env. and social impacts.
Economic growth, social development environmental preservation and labour force poverty. / Video Film.
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,26*



Cultural exchange and networking are two main reasons for participating at NGO Forum at Holmen

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

- The Family**
Human Rights
Multi ethnic Show. / Music.
09:00 - 12:45
Music
English
C,4,32
- Dansk Socialrådgiverforening**
IFSW Briefing
Development of social work in relation to the title and contents of the UN Summit Meeting.
17:00 - 18:45
Other
English
C,2,07*
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs**
Indigenous Peoples and Selfgovernment as a Means for Coping with Soc. Injustice
Social Injustice in democratic systems, land-right, selfgovernment
09:00 - 18:45
Conference
English, Spanish
D,1,34
- Arctic Indigenous Peoples**
Indigenous Peoples at the NGO Forum '95
19:00 - 20:45
Theatre
F, Steelworks
- International Network of Small Island Developing States NGO's**
INSNI Daily Caucus
Overall Conference and Strategy.
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English, Spanish, French
C,2,15*
- Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development**
International Financial Institutions and Poverty
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,2,17*
- The Danish Host Committee for NGO Forum '95**
Keynote speakers - daily briefing
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*
- Centro de Estudios Sobre América**
La pobreza en América Latina y el Caribe: Un enfoque estructural
Desarrollo dependiente y su impacto en lo social.
11:00 - 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,2,14*
- Lifeseeing in Denmark**
Lifeseeing in Denmark
Inter-action. Adult education. Show.
17:00 - 18:45
Music
English
C,3,30*
- Center for practice-oriented feminist science.**
Male Behavior & poverty
How male behavior causes poverty & concrete ways to change this
11:00 - 12:45
Workshop
- English
H,1,40*
- Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation**
Marginal or "mistress" ? From the Slums of Nairobi to the Streets of Copenhagen
On the Marginalizing of Women. (Attending: Sally Arunga, Kenya, Caroline Maposhere, Zimbabwe, Ruth Borris, Denmark, Jannie Bjørkholk, Denmark, Linda Hasselbalch, Denmark, Ian Gatere, Kenya, Susanne Possing, Denmark.
11:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,08*
- Environmental Vanguard Internat**
Masquerade Festival in Anambra State, Women in action
Empowerment of Women for Environment.
17:00 - 18:45
Video film
English
C,3,22*
- International Migrants Rights Committee**
Migration: NGO Networking and Action with Migrants
Migration
11:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English
H,1,42
- Fonola-Sol**
Miljø og fattigdom. Eksempler fra Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay og Argentina
Video and slides.
09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,2,07*
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**
New Policies and Mechanisms. Campaigning on Social & Economic Human Rights
Civil Action in Disaster Situations.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,11*
- NGO Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean**
NGO Forum on Women towards Beijing '95
Women and Development. Dissemination activities in coordination with Women's Caucus.
09:00 - 12:45
Other
Spanish
C,2,12*
- Netherlands Organisation for Development Cooperation**
NGO's as Actors of Change
NGO's experience in Social Development.
19:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,2,13*
- Legal Research and Resource Center for Human Rights**
Obstacles facing Southern NGOs in achieving Sustainable Development
Governmental Obstacles / Social
- Obstacles / Building New Strategies. / + Video Film.
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,2,13*
- Indvandrekvindeforeningen Soldue**
Panel discussion and debate
Panel discussion and debate
17:00 - 18:45
Other
English, Danish
C,2,13*
- European Anti-Poverty Network**
Participation & Representation of people in poverty in Europe & other Continents
Exchange of experience on above subject between NGO representatives from different parts of the world.
09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English
C,3,27*
- Baha'i International Community USA**
Participatory Techniques for Social Integration: UNIFEM Project, Case-study
Organizational behavioural change
gender Integration
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,08*
- International Solidarity, Friend Peace Foundation**
Peace all over the World
09:00 - 10:45
Conference
French
G,1,35
- North South Productions Planet 21**
Peopl + Planet video project
11:00 - 12:45
Video film
English
C,2,13*
- People's Alliance for Social Development**
People's Alliance for Social Development
Social Development in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean / Videofilm
17:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,19*
- Danish Women With Disabilities**
Perfect Babies in a perfect World-Who has the Right to life ?
Use of Pre-natal diagnostics as methods for abolishing of the female sex and as selection of people with disabilities or other inherited characteristics.
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English, Danish
B,1,02*
- United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**
Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries
Vocational training of self employment of under privileged youth.
- Educational programmes of population control.
17:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,29*
- Klimaforum '95, Climate Forum'95**
Presentation of NGO-KlimaForum '95 activities / The UN Climate Summit in Berlin
The Climate Convention and its importance for development; relevance of UN Social Summit for Climate Summit, NGO activities and preparation for Berlin and in Berlin.
17:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English
C,3,23*
- Overseas Development Council**
Press Conference on the Social Summit
Poverty, employment, social integration; will answer reporters' questions.
11:00 - 12:45
Other
English
C,3,31*
- Alliance for Life**
Problems of Adolescent Sexuality: A Worldwide Concern
SID's reproductive choice, sexual education etc./ Guest Speaker: Dr. Stephen Genuis.
13:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
H,1,42
- Reden KFUK's Sociale Arbejde**
Prostitution as a social problem
Prostitution
13:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
C,3,27*
- Asian Women's Human Right Council Asia Pacific Women Action Network**
Public hearing on the violence of development
09:00 - 12:45
Other
English
C,3,19*
- Health Environmental Regional Organization**
Retain full employment and environmental dev. in the West Carpathians
Development
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,23*
- Japanese Preparatory Committee for NGO Forum of WSSD**
Role of Japan in solving global issues
To discuss influence of Japan on Global problems and its role in solving them.
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,4,32
- Dansk Cubansk Forening**
Samir Amin on African and 3. World Development
Development strategies for the poor
- rest countries in the world.
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
G,1,35
- MFR's Venner i Danmark**
Små danske NGO'ers rolle i udviklingspolitikken
Hvorledes kan små danske NGO'er bedst støtte udviklingsbestrebelse i U-lande og hvorledes kan vi trænge igennem den danske offentlighed og det danske bistandssystem.
17:00 - 18:45
Workshop
Danish
C,2,12*
- Europabevægelse, Den danske Kvindekomiteen**
Social conflicts and EU-integration
The integration of Eastern Europe and the EU.
17:00 - 18:45
Conference
English
C,2,18*
- Fundacion Centroamericana por la Integracion.**
Social Development: The Central American Case
Social Development conflicts in Small Economies, Countries engaged in Regional Integration programmes.
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,24*
- Tibet Bureau for United Nations Affairs**
Social Development: The Tibetan situation
17:00 - 20:45
Conference
English
H,1,41*
- International Workers Aid**
Social Integration
Migrants and economic deregulation, racism and xenophobia. Violence against migrant women at work.
17:00 - 18:45
Other
English
C,3,27*
- Association Ribat El Fath 'Celle Enfants'**
Social Integration of Children and Youth in the Unplanned Settlements, Morocco
Education - Social context in poor and unplanned settlements. Problems with regard to urban growth.
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
French
C,2,07*
- Charity Special Children Fondation - Anthill**
Social-psychological rehabilitation of teenagers on the basis of Env. education
1) Problems of children & youth in Ukraine. 2) "Anthill's" methods of work with teenagers.
17:00 - 18:45
Workshop
English
C,2,16*
- Life Ethics Educational Associati**
Society, the family and values
Domestic violence, social justice.



13:00 - 14:45
Conference
English
C,3,30*

Institute for Planetary Synthesis Italy

Socio-cultural projects for children as a strategic step in Social Development
Concrete projects on Human values in Mass-Media as a global intervention program.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English
C,3,23*

Københavns Kvindedagshøj- skole

Sofar: Inner Goddesses
Personal development through visual work, cultural participation / access to art, articulating women experiences, visually across borders. (Video Film).
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,3,24*

Temple of Understanding

Spirituality, Values and Development
A Paper on Spiritual development values - inter-religious work
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English
C,3,20*

Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for Advancement of Women

Sports as a reflection of Social Integration. Case studies
Social Integration.
17:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,2,14*

Center of Concern

Structures of Exclusion and feature testimonies from the South
Development, poverty, human rights, women, employment, social integration.
15:00 - 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,19*

International Society for Human Rights, The Gambia Section

Symposium on Human Rights and Development
Poverty Alleviation in poor Countries of Africa. Causes of Social Conflicts and Instability.
15:00 - 16:45
Other
English
C,2,08*

Sind - Linjen og andre Telefon- rådgivninger

Telephonic Counseling to People in Crisis
Telephonic counseling with regard to insanity, suicide, youth problems.
11:00 - 14:45
Conference
English
B,1,02*

AEDENAT

The Bretton Woods Institutions, the main cause of poverty
The need to abolish the BWI. A Report from the alternative Forum of Madrid, "The other voices of the Planet" / Video film
09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,2,18*

Ecological Movement of Macedonia - FOE

The environment and cooperation in

the Balkans
How the environment could increase NGO cooperation in this region.
09:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
H,1,41*

Den Danske Henry George Forening The Danish Henry George Ass.

The land question
Disposal of the Value of Land all over the Globe.
09:00 - 10:45
Conference
English
C,2,14*

Grumin-Group Woman Indi- genous Education

The occult Indian
The consequences of the contact of civilization with indigenous cultures - an approach
17:00 - 18:45
Other
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The Peace Dividend and the Women's Budget
Reduction of military expenditures, reallocation of resources.
11:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*

Brahma Kumaris World Spirit- ual University

The role of commitment
A discovery dialogue of the possibilities within and significance of commitment.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,2,09*

International Secretariat for Water.

The role of privat sector in sustainable Financing
of water and civil society actions.
09:00 - 10:45
Workshop
English, Spanish, French
C,3,31*

Ecologically Sustainable Development Foundation - ECOFUND

The Third World: A Factory of Slaves
What an Ecologically Sustainable development can do for life quality and social justice, mainly in the third world.
15:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
C,2,18*

The Values Caucus

The Values Caucus
Ethical, Moral and Spiritual Values for Social Development.
13:00 - 14:45
Other
English
C,2,18*

The World Bank Group

The World Bank and investing in people
5:00 - 16:45

Other
English
C,4,32

Støttekomiteen for Tibet

Tibetan Youth Congress, Bharamsala Youth and Social Development in Tibet. Tsewang Phuntso
15:00 - 18:45
Conference
English
C,3,26*

Burundi Committee

To be provided
15:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
C,2,14*

International Population & Family Association

To be provided
19:00 - 20:45
Workshop
English
C,2,07*

The Egyptian Delegation

To be provided
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,3,26*

Hungarian Folk High School

To be provided
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,11*

U.S. NGO Social Summit Wor- king Group

U.S. NGO Caucus
Discuss advocacy strategy; report of NGO members of US delegation to our national NGO.
11:00 - 12:45
Other
English
C,3,29*

Paz Y Cooperación, Peace and Cooperation

UN 50 Anniversary - International Year of Tolerance (School Award) Tolerance and San Francisco Spirit.
11:00 - 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,21*

Lourdes Youth and Community Services, Ltd.

Unspoken Truths
Cultural participation articulating women's experiences across Borders.
11:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English
C,2,09*

Muslim World League

Video Film: Human Rights in Islam
Violations of Human Rights and Conditions of Refugees.
13:00 - 14:45
Video film
English
C,3,28*

Assn. pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes

Violence against Women - An obstacle to their Development

Human Rights (Women's human Rights)
09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
French
C,3,22*

Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK

Women's Caucus
Daily briefing
09:00 - 10:45
Other
English, Danish
B,1,01*

Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Den- mark

Workshop on structural adjustment
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish, Spanish, French
C,2,16*

Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Den- mark

Workshop on structural adjustment
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish, Spanish, French
C,2,07*

Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Den- mark

Workshop on structural adjustment
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish, Spanish, French
C,3,29*

Korea NGO Forum for Social Development

Workshop on the Korean social development model
Korean social development model from sustainable human development (SHD) perspective. W/Video film.
09:00 - 12:45
Workshop
English
C,4,33

Association for World Educati- on Danish AWE

World education and social development
13:00 - 16:45
Conference
English
H,1,41*

Økologiske Igangsættere

Youth and ecology
Youth and unemployment
13:00 - 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,13*

World Assembly of Youth

Youth Caucus
09:00 - 20:45
Other
C,2,10*

NGO FORUM '95



Copenhagen

3-12 March

social summit



Debt relief of no use

By Jens Jørgen Madsen

He claims that most NGO's are maneuvering on the side of the World Bank.

He argues that the proposals of the 20/20 aid concept, debt relief and establishing national social commitments are all wrong. And he thinks that the only alternative solution is to close the World Bank and redistribute the world capital by a new global taxation system.

"We are in a new era of global colonialism - compradorisation - where the ethnocentric G7 countries play the role as the world savers. I think the Social Summit is just polishing the surface," says Egyptian economist Samir Amin, Third World Forum, who will be giving his first speech at the NGO Forum today.

According to Samir Amin, the process of rescheduling world debt or even eradicating debt by total relief will not make any fundamental change.

"The proposal of debt relief is only a way to ensure what I call the service of debt; continuous speculation in global transfer of capital" Samir Amin tells NGO News in a private interview.

He argues that the Third World debt and the US debt are supporting the global financial speculation.

"It's an enormous opportunity for financing and investment. Together, the debt, high interest rates and the advantage of floating exchange rates are worth billions to speculators, and that is why there is no real attempt to change the system."

According to the UN Human Development Report 1994, many transactions in the foreign exchange markets are purely speculative, not for international trade.

About \$1 trillion cross international frontiers every 24 hours in response to the slightest tremor in interest or currency rates.

Moreover, global transfer of capital per year is more than 30 times as high as regular global trade.

Samir Amin does not believe free trade is the answer, and neither are the Structural Adjustment Programmes.

"We should close the World Bank and IMF. The World Bank is a North Bank serving the interests of the rich, and even a 20/20 compact doesn't secure that future aid is spent on the right purpose. Moreover, GATT and WTO

Manipulation. The process of rescheduling world debt will not solve the global crises, argues economist Samir Amin, Third World Forum.

are only in favour of consolidating the monopolies," Amin says, although he is not against cooperation and regards himself as an internationalist.

"Instead, we have to start redistributing money by changing global taxation. This should be done by enlarging the role of the UN and not the World Bank," he says in favour of applying a tax on the value of transaction as suggested by James Tobin, winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize for Economics.

"The solution to debt would be to put a ceiling on debt services, in order to force those countries taking advantage of the current system to change.

We have to move the capital away from investment in debt, into investment in real production. Unfortunately no countries would dare to agree to the Tobin tax or other taxes on the transfer of floating capital."

Samir Amin also suggests a global negotiation on shares of production units; organizing regional markets and

regional integration with relative protection of industries; reorganization of the money exchange system and monetary arrangement to secure stability.

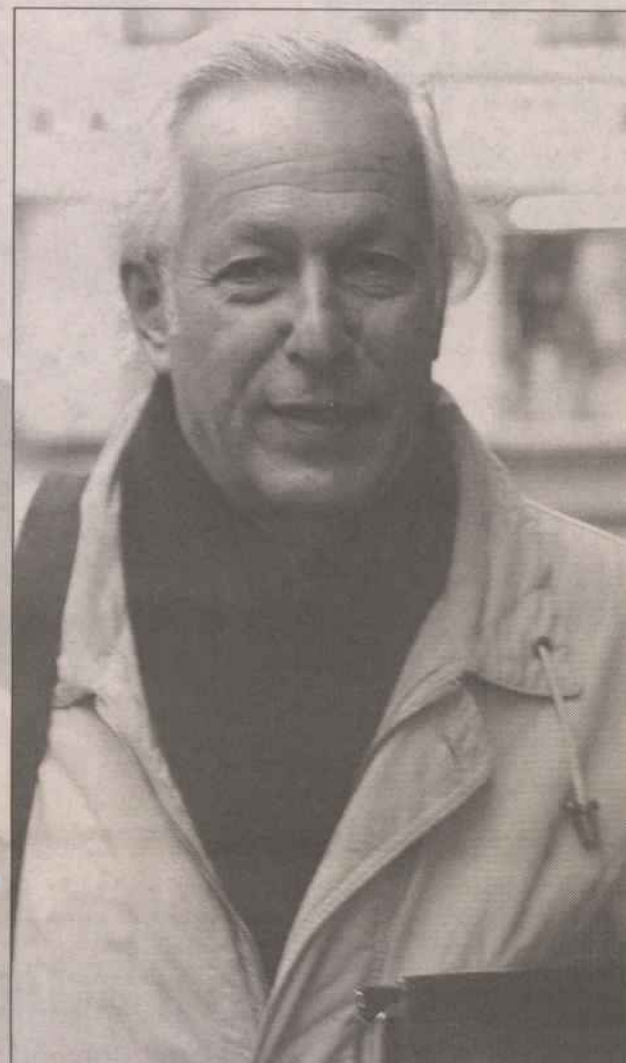
Nothing is sacred to Samir Amin, who sees himself as more radical than most. In very firm and direct words he also addresses a massive attack towards his fellow NGO's. "A lot of the NGO's are very small and weak. They are of absolutely no importance. They are as corrupt as the World Bank, and they do more harm than good by being at the NGO Forum 95," stresses Amin.

He asks why the real NGO movements of greater importance like the Zapatistas in Chiapas are not represented at the NGO Forum. They should have invited real serious movements, popular organizations and trade unions".

3 conferences to watch out for today:

Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Bank & IMF, 0900 (C.2,18)

Samir Amin, 1100 (G.1,35)
The World Bank Group, 1500 (C.4,32).



Samir Amin, the Egyptian economist, who sees himself as more radical than most.
Photo: Thomas Villars

Taslina Nasrin visits Holmen

By Michael Bilde

Author. Taslima Nasrin, the Bangladesh author and one of the most talked-about women in recent years, will pay NGO Forum a visit on Friday March 10th. At the invitation of Danish PEN, the Danish chapter of the international writers' organization, Taslima Nasrin will address the issue of imperialism and answer questions from the audience. Ms. Nasrin, who currently lives in exile in Sweden, has been sentenced to death by the Muslim priesthood in her home country. They argue that Ms. Nasrin - herself born Muslim, but now an atheist - in her works has been blasphemous to Islam by among other things having defended the Hindu population. For more than half a year, Ms. Nasrin was held in a secret place in Bangladesh's capital, Dacca, before last autumn moving to Sweden, with help from the Swedish government and Swedish PEN. The meeting with Ms. Nasrin will take place at 1300 in the conference hall of the Global Village.

Calling attention to women's human rights

By Peter te Lintel Hekkert

Human rights. "The United States should take the lead in protecting and promoting women's human rights." By making statements like this, lobbying governments, organizing public events and giving women arenas to discuss their socioeconomic problems, the Center for Women's Global Leadership wants to draw the attention to the violation of women's human rights.

"Discrimination in the workplace, sexual harassment and domestic abuse are only a few of the violations that take place in the lives of many women", says Susana Fried from the US-based organization. She argues that a lot of these problems are structured

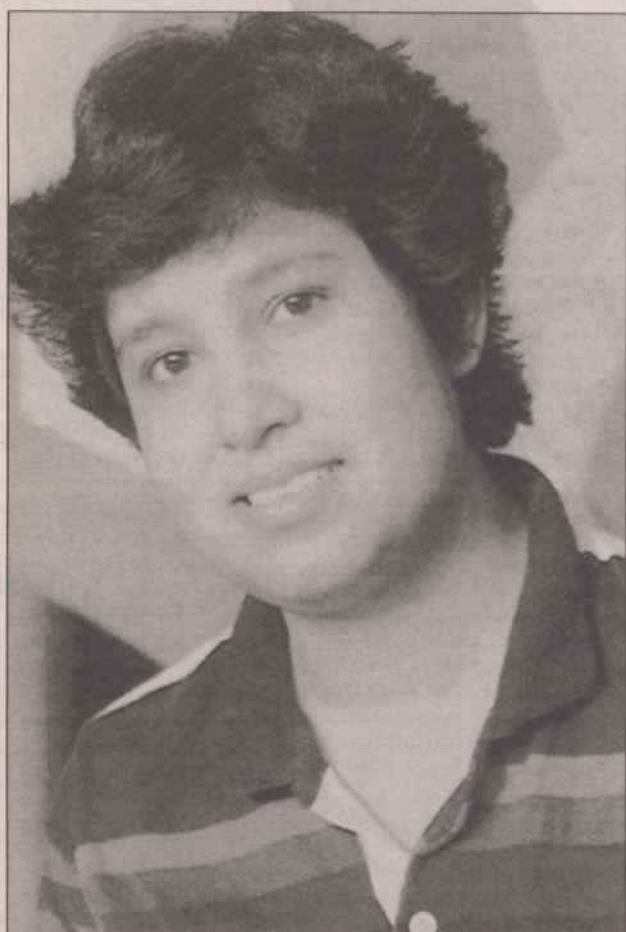
in government policies. The Center will highlight this issue in a hearing at the NGO Forum this afternoon, in cooperation with DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era).

Women's human rights are gender specific rights that guarantee work and protection against unemployment for women as well as adequate wages to ensure the ability to pay for food, clothing, housing and medical care. The Center thinks the United Declaration on Human Rights does not stress this enough. "There should be more emphasis on women's human rights", states Fried. "They need to be incorporated in the general definition of human rights."

The most important goal of the Center is to encourage

women to stand up for themselves. To reach this goal, the Women's Global Leadership Institute in the US has been established. There, women from all over the world come together for a two-week course of intensive working sessions. "They can learn from each others' experiences and get information that they do not get access to in their own countries", says Fried.

The Global Hearing on Violations of Women's SocioEconomic Rights will take place at March 7th 1330 to 1630 in room B, 1, 05.





An NGO Forum supplement

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NGO OF THE DAY

Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement (NFIP)

The NFIP movement brings together 150 smaller grassroots organisations from 24 island states in the Pacific, such as Fiji, Samoa and Tonga. It was established in 1975 with the main aim of stopping the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific region. Later on, the NFIP began the fight for the decolonisation of the Pacific, and today it is concerned with many more areas, especially the issues of energy resources, global warming and sustainable development.

"We have a good working relationship with the official delegations of the small island states, but we don't agree on everything. For example, we think it's a waste of money



Photo exhibition. Trying to make a living in Peru. Photographs from the collection of Lima's Social Photography Workshops. Over a ten year period they have gathered 120,000 photos of everyday life in Peru, all of them reflecting the photographers' own environments. A selection of

the photos is on exhibit in the hallway of C2 at Holmen under the heading "Fishing for Change".

Photos: Cécile Larrabure

MB

Paradise Lost? Family farmers fight for full recognition

Environment. Climatic changes are a question of life or death for many of the small island states.

By Michael Bilde

energy sources, such as bio-energy and solar energy."

Local Knowledge

Not surprisingly, the problem often is that the islands cannot afford to carry out the necessary research themselves.

"We especially need technical assistance from outside, but the projects should still be managed by locals. They have the necessary knowledge of the environmental problems," says Alfred Sasako of the Pacific Islands Delegation to the Social Summit in Bella Center. He thinks that the Rio summit has made a difference in his region of the world. An example is the adoption of several new conventions on the environment.

From Bermuda, Paulu Kamarakafego coordinates the regions under INSNIP, the small island states NGOs' global network. "Here in Copenhagen, the small island states are mentioned in the draft documents with regards to finding new resources. This is a positive thing," he says. That the problems must be addressed urgently is evident. As Alfred Sasako of the official delegation puts it: "It's a matter of life or death."

By Bjarne Nørum Andersen

Development. We live in a world where more than half of the people make their living from what they produce. If this opportunity is taken away from them, poverty in the rural areas and the migrations to an even more miserable life in the cities will increase. That is why the world's leaders must recognise smallscale farmers as a major factor in the struggle against poverty in developing countries.

This is the message from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFPA). They have already achieved some changes in promoting infrastructural and institutional investments in smallscale farming of resource poor regions – and influence from the farmers organisations on sustainable growth – in the Programme of Action, which is to be decided on at the Bella Center, and are now running a last minute dash to achieve this recognition.

Rashid Pertev, assistant Secretary General at IFAP, stresses that the smallscale farmers are under pressure. He aims at the World Bank,

which forces developing countries to remove their trade barriers as a part of the structural adjustment programmes (SAP's). This has made the smallscale family farmers extremely vulnerable to imported agricultural products from the industrialised countries.

According to Rashid Pertev there are three options for the agricultural sector in a developing country; the governments take over, private companies take over or a new structure is created. This should give family farmers an organisation, which allows them to be able to cope with the competition from the industrialised countries. In order to achieve the latter, recognition is required.

Incredible

"It is incredible, it has not happened yet", says Rashid Pertev. He points out, that over half of the world's people still live in rural areas and earn their livelihoods from small farms or agricultural activities.

A part of the last minute struggle is happening at the Small Farmers, Producers and Microentrepreneurs Caucus at Holmen. But the most

influential activities take place through the national delegations at the Social Summit, where a lot of national agricultural organisations are represented.

If lobbyism does not work at this summit, then it is just one battle that is lost. The fight for recognition is ongoing, promises Rashid Pertev.

Not alone

Within the European Union, the small family farmers somehow face the same problem. Seen in the perspective of an enlargement of the European Union towards East and Central Europe, it is commonly recognised that the EU can not keep up the subsidies for the farmers.

The losers in that game are mainly going to be small family farms especially in Southern Europe. Without subsidies and without trade-barriers they will not be competitive with the developing countries.

Regarding the developing countries the conditions will be debated throughout the NGO Forum between the 80 organisations from 30 countries at the daily meetings – Caucus for small farmers, producers and microentrepreneurs.



Lopeti Senituli of the NFIP
 Photo: IKON/Henrik Christensen

that our governments use money on weapons. Who is going to invade us?" says Lopeti Senituli, general coordinator at NFIP's secretariat in Fiji. But he is convinced that NGOs can influence national governments and that world summits are not useless.

"When it comes to the environment, we have seen significant change since the Rio summit," he says.

On the global level, the NFIP takes part in the INSNIP, a worldwide network of small island states NGOs and indigenous peoples. The small island states have managed to get included in the draft documents of the official Social Summit, and Lopeti Senituli does not find it difficult to find a common cause with other island states in the northern hemisphere.

MB

Remember Vienna

Human rights gains eroded, activists say

Activists are worried that gains made on human rights in Vienna and battered in Cairo could be further eroded in Copenhagen, and they are lobbying for changes in the text of the Social Summit declarations.

A meeting yesterday of the Human Rights Caucus at the Bella Centre heard NGO con-

cern that several bracketed provisions in the draft declaration and programme of action sought the promotion of human rights, but suggested they might be subject to national constitutions and laws.

Activists said this could reopen the whole debate on the universality of human rights that polarised Western

Vienna's gains cannot be 'demolished' in Copenhagen

by Johanna Son

governments and some countries in the South in Vienna.

Yesterday's Caucus session endorsed a set of proposed

amendments to the two documents which members plan to discuss with government delegations to the Social

Summit.

Most of the proposed changes aim at the universality of human rights and the acceptance of the 'right to development' as equal with civil, cultural, political and social rights.

"We want to make the reference to human rights as international as possible

because they cannot be derogated by national or local laws," said Kenneth Gallant of the New-Delhi based International Jurists Organisation Asia.

Other human rights campaigners appeared uneasy about reiterating the notion of human rights including the right to development. The concept was too recent, said one activist.

The amendments agreed by yesterday's caucus underlined fears about the contents of the two summit documents. In particular, there is concern that the phrasing could be construed by some as an erosion of the Vienna statement on human rights - or seen even as a renegotiation of previously settled questions.

Gallant said while Vienna's gains could not be demolished at debates during the social summit, qualifications on human rights could indicate a weakening of "political will".

He said there should be "minimum human rights that are part of international law, which are not subject to the whims of tyrannical governments" through national constitutions or statutory means.

The Caucus also wants a new commitment added to the draft declaration. That should be a call for an end to "all forms of violations of economic, social and cultural rights at all levels, including all policy measures generating, directly or indirectly, poverty, unemployment and disintegration".

The proposal also goes beyond nation-states. They should ensure that "international policies" and "activities of international institutions, particularly international financial institutions" do not violate human rights.

In a new political landscape

SID to launch global initiative

Asking for a vision of the next century

The Rome-based Society for International Development (SID) has turned to the world's legislators to launch a new global initiative on international development cooperation.

SID has traditionally lobbied with the executive branches of government. SID has hosted five conferences in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Americas involving more than 12,000 people.

"But we went for the legislators because fundamental policy changes in most countries are usually the work of parliamentarians," says SID Secretary-general, Roberto Savio.

The legislators - both from the North and the South - were given the opportunity to interact with academics, members of government, the private sector and civil society.

The campaign started in 1993 in 10 Western European

countries - leading up to a total of 90 - with 'National Days of Reflection' on North-South cooperation.

These events led to a conference for parliamentarians and civil society in Bonn in September 1993.

SID says it took the initiative because rapid and accelerating deterioration in global human security is one of the most critical policy challenges - and possibly the most critical - facing the post-Cold War era.

Before the superpower rapprochement, he said, international development cooperation was linked to Cold War considerations. But after the Cold War ended, the nature of the world's development problems has dramatically changed.

There was the opening of

economies, and more importantly, the internationalisation of development problems, he said.

Savio pointed out that development problems - such as poverty, unemployment and disease - were now travelling faster across international borders.

There is now a new political landscape, and greater openness of the world - all necessitating international development cooperation.

Insecurity

The openness had also led to insecurity, as was the case with Mexico, where money could be transferred more freely across borders.

"So we gathered together all the parliamentarians in the different regions of the wor-

ld - and asked them about their vision of the 21st century," Savio said.

He pointed out that SID also carved out an important role for the private sector because 70 percent of the world's total investments come from private capital.

But he said one of the biggest surprises he encountered at the regional conferences was the willingness of countries to take responsibility for their own development.

Let development strategies be home-grown, was one of the responses SID got from developing country participants.

There were at least eight key policy messages that emerged from the regional conferences on global human security.

Development must be indigenous and rooted at the local

level; development must be people-centred; development must be environmentally sound and sustainable; development must promote peace; policy priorities must be reflected in budgetary priorities; global human security needs a new institutional framework of development; development accountability must be fostered; and development, peace and security in the 21st century require new partnerships.

Among the occasions, he said, are the present summit in Copenhagen, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, and the 50th anniversary summit in New York in October.

SID is organising a workshop at 1.00 pm March 7 at the NGO Forum in Copenhagen to discuss a synthesis report on 'Human Security and Sustainable Human Development'.

A 'dose of boldness needed'

by Maricel Sequeira

Nicaraguan economist Javier Gorostiaga called on non-governmental organisations meeting here to fight for a restructuring of the Bretton Woods institutions and a change in the global balance of power.

Gorostiaga said a "dose of boldness" was necessary to ensure that a declaration to be submitted by the weekend to the official conference included key elements not yet been incorporated into it.

He said NGOs had to draw up an agenda that gave prominence to issues such as the need to call for an independent evaluation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to demand transparency and responsibility from the United Nations.

The Nicaraguan expert also highlighted the need to fight for new socio-economic indi-

cators that take other factors into account, including environmental ones, since "the present indicators lead us up the wrong path since they hide unemployment and social disintegration."

He argued that the balance of power that obtained in the world today was the cause of poverty. It needed to be changed.

"We have to end the 'champagne glass' civilisation in which 20 per cent of humanity controls 82 per cent of the world's wealth, technology, military power and knowledge," he said. For that to be achieved, education had to be included in the NGO Forum's final declaration, because it was part of the problem.

"We reproduce the values of the champagne glass. This is a civilization crisis, which is why we have to change our educational system."

He listed alternatives the restructuring of the bilateral foreign debt and the formation of a fund that would "provide resources for paying the debt and rebuilding countries with the participation of organised groups."

Such a structure would provide a means of doing away with the present system of aid to the developing world which "in some cases is of no use, as in the case of Nicaragua."

Although Nicaragua had received most aid per capita in the past five years than many other countries, except for Israel, its per capita gross domestic product was the same as in 1945, he said.

He attributed this to the structural adjustment programmes applied in the Central American nation. These had become a straight jacket.

According to the economist, 96 percent of additional funds provided for Nicaragua's latest adjustment programme must be earmarked for servicing a foreign debt that exceeds 11 billion dollars.

"This means that Nicarag-



Javier Gorostiaga

ua's foreign debt increases by more than 400 million dollars and it would take all our exports over the next 40 years to pay off the debt," Gorostiaga said. Nicaragua's annual exports amounted to about 300 million dollars.

He pointed out that Nicaragua and Mexico were the clearest illustrations of the failure of structural adjustment programmes in Latin America. If the Bretton Woods institutions were not reformed, "I don't see how we continue with them."

"Mexico, for example, was considered the model country for restructuring eight years ago and was chosen as the only participant in NAFTA as a model for the rest of Latin America.

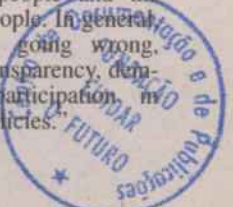
"Only a year ago Mexico was touted as a model and now it is hit by three crises: the social crisis in Chiapas,

the financial crisis created by 24 multimillionaires and the political crisis of the PRI (the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party)."

He said that in the past seven years, Mexico had been one of the countries with the greatest concentration of wealth: 24 multimillionaires controlled 44 billion dollars.

Throughout the world as a whole, 358 people controlled 62 billion dollars and had a per capita income equivalent to that of 45 percent of the world's people.

For Gorostiaga, Mexico was also the country with the least adjustment in the world. "There's no adjustment there, the only one was done against the poorest people and the indigenous people. In general, something is going wrong, there is no transparency, democracy or participation in adjustment policies."



Gulf War still claiming lives

by Kalinga Seneviratne

A three-month old boy with a bloated, yellowish belly breathes unasily in a hospital in the Iraqi capital as his young mother keeps an anxious eye over him, reports IPS in Baghdad.

Hooked to a respirator on another bed is a three-year-old girl who is suffering from a heart problem, but the hospital has no facilities for open heart surgery or drugs to ease her condition.

"This boy has bad jaundice. We can't do the tests to find out the cause, because the drugs are not available," says Jasim Al-Marzoki, chief resident at the Saddam Central Teaching Hospital for Children.

"It's frustrating. We know how to treat them, but we can't help them. It's devastating for a doctor to work in these conditions."

In pre-Gulf War days this hospital had the country's best facility for children. It treated over 1,000 patients a day and had another 400 beds available for in-patient care.

Embargo

Because of the U.N.-sponsored economic embargo against Iraq, the hospital now has a skeleton staff, and its corridors are empty. Children, many too sick even to cry, are fanned, stroked and nursed by helpless mothers, grandmothers and aunts.

One mother asked a visiting foreign journalist to buy her emaciated three-month-old daughter, who weighed only three kilos, a tin of special infant formula. At 1,000 Iraqi dinars, it is worth a third of a doctor's pay. The girl needs 10 cans a month.

Bombed

Dhia Al-Obaidi, consultant paediatrician and hospital director, says the hospital used to get only three protein-calorie deficiency cases every year before the war. Now, it gets that number in a week.

The U.S.-led multinational coalition bombed Iraq back into the middle ages in January 1991 in retaliation for Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait the previous year.

The crippling U.N. embargo that followed has hurt Iraqi mothers and children the most.

Iraqi diplomat Tariq Aziz has been lobbying hard in recent months with U.N. members to get the embargo lifted. U.N. diplomats say they expect the embargo to go soon, but till then ordinary Iraqis will continue to suffer. Inflation is running at 24,000 percent a year.

Most of the bridges and roads in Iraq have been repaired in the past two years, but health services and water supply remain hit by drugs shortages and spare parts.

Cuts in health care hit rural poor

Maud Mudimbu is 69 and ailing, but she has stopped visiting the nearest health clinic, which is some 20 km away, reports IPS in Makoni, eastern Zimbabwe.

"I cannot afford the transport costs and all they do when I get there is give me a packet of tablets," says Mudimbu, who like her peers, believes a visit to a doctor is incomplete without a jab.

Mudimbu suffers from several illnesses related to old age and can no longer walk. She depends entirely on her 24-year-old granddaughter to move around.

But the fact that she now also has to pay for treatment has caused her to stop visiting the clinic.

"I might as well wait for the day I die. There is nowhere I can get the money from," says Mudimbu, who lives in this rural district, some 160 km east of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital.

Fees were introduced at rural health centres last year. Anyone wishing to be treated for free first needs to obtain a certificate from a

social worker proving that he or she is unable to pay and this often takes time.

The enforcement of fee-collection at health facilities, brought about by an adjustment programme begun in 1991, is having an impact on health delivery, notes a UNICEF report.

"Recent epidemiological analysis indicates that, in the past three to four years, a general reversal has occurred in the gains made in the previous decade," says the report, 'Children and Women in Zimbabwe - A Situation Analysis'.

Attendance

Zimbabwe attained an enviable record of health provision in sub-Saharan Africa between 1980 and 1990. But since 1990/91, the recurrent budget of the ministry of health has fallen by 34 percent in real terms.

In 1992, an overall decline was observed in the out-patient attendance rate among children under five. This "may reflect a developing reluctance on the part of mothers to take their children to health facilities caused by the

need to pay," says the report.

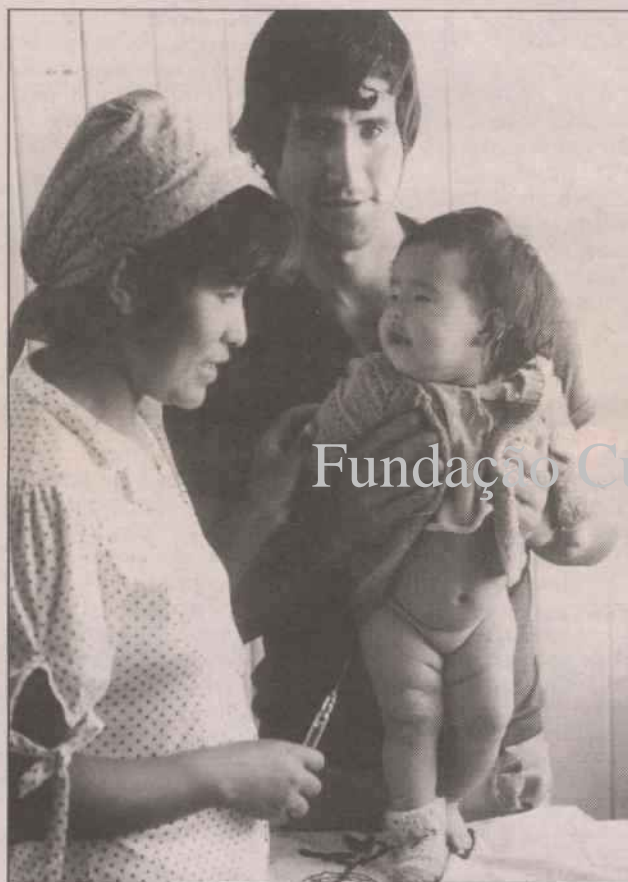
At independence in 1980, government embarked on an ambitious health plan to rectify imbalances between urban and rural areas and between black and white.

The government of president Robert Mugabe reorganised the sector. At the lowest level were hundreds of rural health centres and 56 rural hospitals. The distribution of health facilities was meant to ensure that 85 percent of the 10.4 million population lived within eight km of a health unit.

Ante-natal care coverage rose to 90 percent of pregnant women over the decade. Village level health workers (VHWs) were introduced in 1986 to promote primary health care.

By 1987 there were 7,000 VHWs countrywide, short of the planned 15,000. But the number has now fallen to 5,000.

Stagnation of salaries and benefits has exacerbated the emigration of doctors and nurses. The number of nurses per capita fell 17 percent between 1988 and 1993 and reports of drug shortages have become more frequent.



A health worker inoculates a young resident of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Picture: UN.

Black market traders prey on the poor Making a killing with blood money

Range of disease transmitted, including AIDS

by Tabibul Islam

It was past midnight when doctors at the government hospital informed Salman, a poor labourer, that his wife, suffering from a severe liver disorder, was critical and needed an immediate blood transfusion to save her life, reports IPS in Dhaka.

Salman rushed to the nearest government blood bank, only to discover that it had closed at nine p.m. As he worriedly made his way back to the hospital ward, he was approached by a well-dressed gentleman who asked him what the matter was.

As Salman narrated his plight, the gentleman drew him to a corner of the corridor and offered him two bags of blood. But he would be charged 20 dollars for the blood

against the actual price of five dollars, the gentleman, who called himself Asif, said.

For Salman, a daily wage earner, the amount represented more than a month's income and was totally out of his reach. As a result, his wife died.

Asif is just one of many agents of professional blood donors who lurk around hospital corridors on the prowl for people in desperate need of blood. Their rate varies with the time of the day and the perceived status of the patients and their relatives.

Asif has five to six unemployed men, rickshaw pullers or casual labourers at his call every day. The men donate blood as often as possible in return for money. Many of them are drug addicts and need the money for their daily fix.

Malaria

Most of them suffer from either malaria, hepatitis or sexually transmitted diseases, rheumatic fever, skin afflictions or a host of other ailments that are transmitted through blood.

Nearly seven percent of Bangladesh's 120 million population are carriers of the deadly hepatitis B, according to a recent study.

The latest to join the insidious list is AIDS. Drug addiction among some donors increases their vulnerability to the disease through the sharing of hypodermic syringes. Yet professional donors supply 65 percent of the country's blood requirement.

Bangladesh needs 250,000

bags of blood annually to cater for the needs of patients both within and outside hospitals. Only one-fourth of this demand is met by voluntary donations.

Due to the perennial short supply, there is a flourishing black market in blood. Doctors, requesting anonymity, say some of their colleagues and technicians at the government blood banks are involved.

Screening

There are 44 government-controlled blood banks in the country. But most of them lack adequate screening facilities to weed out disease-carrying blood. At least 48 of the patients surveyed in one hospital recently said they had contracted hepatitis because of blood transfusions.

Medical experts say the government should formulate a policy to encourage voluntary blood donation, enhance screening facilities and outlaw private blood banks that depend on professional donors for their supplies.

Doctors here say a start can be made by backing 'Sandhani' - a voluntary organisation run by students of medical and dental colleges in the country. Sandhani has 10 branches across Bangladesh and supplies screened blood free to the poor.

Established in 1977, the group now supplies one-eighth of the total blood requirements in the country. Most of the funds for the organisation come from donations by the students themselves.

Traditional Mayan medicine meets need

by Fabiana Frayssinet

The use of medicinal plants to treat ailments goes back thousands of years, and for the Guatemala's Maya population - marginalised from the modern health system - it is a vital and valuable option, reports IPS in Guatemala City.

Jacinto Paz, director of the Ixil region's Cultural Centres, says traditional medicine is one of the values his organisation is trying to preserve.

"The initial plan was for a museum ... but the possibility of creating a cultural centre deepened the commitment of those involved with the idea ... looking outside the area and into the future, to escape from marginalisation and isolation," Paz says.

The Ixil zone - in the department of Quiché - is 350 kilometres from the Guatema-

lan capital, and includes the areas of Nebaj, Cotzal and Chajul, each of which has a Cultural Centre.

The population is over 85 percent indigenous and the zone has suffered heavily from the internal conflict afflicting Guatemala for more than 30 years.

Average monthly incomes are just over one dollar which cannot stretch to cover the price of "chemical medication".

The Cultural Centre decided to research traditional health practices and produced a booklet called 'Offering the Miracle of the Nine Cold Waters'.

While modern medicine uses science to cure, traditional Mayan healing works through magical, religious and social processes.

This form of medicine is rooted in Ixil ancestral knowledge and includes treatments such as puncturing (for snake bites), blowing (for burns and cramps), bone setting, midwifery, dream interpretation, fortune-telling, herbalism, spiritualism and aversion of the evil eye.

It is based on magical-religious ceremonies, prayers, medicinal plants, animal sacrifices and the burning of candles to speak with God.

The Mayan priests practise some of these skills as part of their religious and community functions, and local herbalists use some 140 different plants found in the area.

South Centre backs UN reform

A Southern think tank has supported the calls for reform of the United Nations but says it should begin with changing the Security Council structure and bringing the Bretton Woods Institutions under the control of the world body, reports IPS in Vienna.

In a paper submitted to the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Geneva-based South Centre criticised what it called the 'monopoly' of a few powerful countries over the United Nations.

It accused these nations of trying to increase their hold under the pretext of reform and "in the process the organisation risks being tailored in ways which favour the big powers, cutting away activities they like least."

Karl Theodor Paschke, head of the newly created United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services questioned the continued existence of the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The South Centre paper admits there are "many problems" with the U.N. but blames the North for a good number of them.

by Senthil Ratnasabapathy

The Centre attributed one problem to the decision to deny the world body authority over the Bretton Woods institutions, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the former General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. These bodies subsequently embarked on policies which were detrimental to the well being of the South.

Within the United Nations itself the North has been blamed by the Centre for undermining the activities of agencies which "give rise to dissent or which challenge the dominant economic system."

But the Centre also pointed out successes, like decolonisation and improving the living standards in the Third World. "This is not a time for despair but for determined efforts to rekindle the original inspirations of the United Nations," it said.

More single mothers and less state aid

Russian single parents struggle

An economic crisis, a sexual revolution and a lack of proper contraception means children suffer heavily

According to official statistics, there were about 1.5 million single mothers in Russia in 1994. In addition, a similar number of children are given a special allowance by the government.

The allowance equals one minimum monthly salary presently fixed at 20,500 roubles plus another 10,000 roubles (less than eight dollars in total).

With inflation running into double digit figures every month, it is impossible to bring up a child on this paltry amount and most single mothers rely on help from their parents or earn money by working at home.

For example, some mothers have opened nurseries in their homes while others look for jobs they can do on a part-time basis.

Soviet-style

Irina, a 38-year-old barmaid and single mother of three children lives in one room in a typical Soviet-style communal apartment which 10 people now share.

Irina does not get any money from the fathers of her children and is not free to choose her workplace because her youngest daughter is only six months old. Irina's eldest son, who is 16, has found work in a shop and she says he is the only real income-earner in the family.

"To tell you frankly, I could have got married but I did not want it at all. Russian men are heavy drinkers and who will marry a woman with three children?"

For a growing number of Russian women, it is easier to remain single than find a good man. Divorce rates have been shooting up in the past few years and Russian officials have repeatedly voiced concern over the dwindling population which is the result

of falling birth rates.

Demographic specialists also point out that Russia has among the world's highest percentages of educated women. This factor makes the task of finding a spouse even more demanding in a society where women outnumber men.

Before the start of Russian reforms in the 'perestroika' years, single mothers had some distinct advantages over married women.

They had the right to get a flat without being on the waiting list and she could receive full pay whilst on sick leave. She also was able to retain her job during pregnancy.

It for this reason that many Russian mothers found it better to declare themselves single. But now the situation has changed drastically and it is much harder for single mothers to look after themselves.

Natasha, a 29-year old dentist with a disabled child, says she has been waiting to get a flat for the past five years but is now deciding whether to take an offer of a flat for 25,000 dollars.

"Fortunately, I have a good job in a private clinic where my salary is paid in dollars. I have to feed my entire family, including my mother, brother and daughter.

"But besides this, I have to find money to hire a masseur, teacher and nurse for my child who suffers from cerebral paralysis and I can hardly make both ends meet," she adds.

A number of single mothers

are therefore turning to each other to struggle against their common difficulties. In 1990, three single mothers in Moscow formed an association which now has 50 members and is growing.

Marina Klenia, head of the group, said: "All of us are in great distress, the officials are not interested in our lives. It's the church that helps us, spe-

cially a catholic organisation called 'The House of Maria'."

Members of the association exchange clothes between their children, help out with baby-sitting and organise group excursions to the theatre or circus with the occasional donation.

They also work in a soup kitchen run by 'The House of Maria' in return for its support. Most of them are on the look-out for good husbands and three have already been successful since the association started.

Alexander Sinelnikov, a leading specialist at the Family Research Institute of the Ministry for Social Welfare in Moscow, said:

"The main cause of the growth of extra-marital births in the post-war period was the numerical imbalance between men and women."

Sinelnikov says during and after the war, women were forced to bring up their children alone due to lack of men in the country — the Soviet Union lost millions of its people during World War Two. But today's single mothers are forced to do the same because they cannot find eligible men.

The expert says the number of single mothers will increase over the next few years. Part of the reason is a global crisis of the family as a social institution but there are also specific Russian factors.

"In our country we have an economic crisis, linked to a sexual revolution and a lack of proper contraception practices. All this means, our children will suffer heavily," Sinelnikov concludes.



A Russian mother begs in Red Square.
Picture: Det Fri Aktuelt

Unruly media targeted by state

Cambodians wrestle with free speech

by Tom Fawthrop

Cambodian government officials used to stand helpless as the local media churned out scathing attacks on their policies and insults about their character and physical features.

Now they are hitting back at the country's outspoken press, launching a series of defamation suits and ordering the closure of one newspaper.

Media analysts say there are ominous signs that conservatives will pressure the National Assembly to pass a press law under debate which will restrict rather than protect media freedom.

Last week a Cambodian court sentenced Chan Ratana, editor of the Voice of Khmer Youth, to one year in prison on a charge of insulting first prime minister, Norodom Ranariddh.

The move drew fire from rights activists, who deplored the government's use of criminal sanctions to discipline the vitriolic and often abusive tone of one sector of the Cambodian press.

The offending editorial, which described Ranariddh as "more stupid than (second prime minister) Hun Sen three times a day," was a typically scurrilous attack that has become the trademark of five or six stridently anti-government tabloids.

On other occasions local

newspapers have published vicious cartoons ridiculing both prime ministers. Hun Sen said that in the past he had been patient with the media because of his respect for democracy.

"But today the humiliation is too much," he said. "I will not forgive those who humiliated me ... I have already sued five newspapers."

Pin Samkhon, president of the Khmer Journalists Association (KJA), sympathised with Hun Sen's frustrations but argued: "That does not mean journalists should go to jail. It should be a civil action for libel or defamation of character, and if found guilty the (journalists) should be fined, not imprisoned."

The Information Ministry is known to be strongly opposed to the jailing of journalists but the judge clearly acted according to instructions from the office of the two prime ministers.

The KJA, the first-ever body set up to promote and protect the journalistic profession in Cambodia, treads a difficult path between the repressive inclinations of some government leaders and the extremist and often racist language of some government-bashing newspapers.

New AsDB forest policy

by IPS correspondents

The Asian Development Bank (AsDB) announced yesterday that it will not finance any rural infrastructure or other public investment projects that contribute to deforestation in the Asia-Pacific, IPS Manila reports.

The bank's decision follows the release of a report which warns that the Asia-Pacific's total forest area was reduced by nine percent or by about 45 million hectares between 1980 and 1990. The yearly average forest loss is thus nearly double the annual replanting rate of 2.1 million hectares.

This has prompted the AsDB to identify three main goals for its new forestry policy in a region that contains one-fourth of the world's tropical forests and half the earth's plant and animal species.

The goals are: protection of the forests' soil, water and biodiversity, production of renewable resources and harvesting in a sustainable manner and participation of local communities and non-governmental organisations in policy formulation and implementation.

The AsDB said a macro-economic and intersectoral

approach to forestry is crucial because deforestation is linked to rural poverty, population growth, agricultural practices, the development of rural infrastructure and energy policies.

The AsDB forestry policy report notes, for instance, that fuelwood collection and slash-and-burn agriculture are as big - if not bigger - threats to Asia's tropical forests as logging. It says communities remove 700 million cubic metres of timber a year from regional forests, or seven times more than loggers.

As a result, the AsDB has decided to promote pricing policies to encourage the use of fuelwood alternatives such as biogas, kerosene and solar power.

"Bank supported ... Agriculture projects will encourage intensive production on existing lowlands rather than farming by clearing forestlands," said AsDB agriculture department director Richard Bradley. "They will also promote tree-planting in upland areas under cultivation and reforestation on degraded forestlands."

IPS Inter Press Service, since its creation 30 years ago, has grown into a global communications system for development with the fifth largest international news network. It takes a unique global perspective on an increasingly interdependent world, giving a voice to those marginalised by the mainstream.

IPS, moving from information to communications, is already received daily by more than 14000 NGOs worldwide.

IPS operations are made up of:

- the IPS news agency produced daily in English and Spanish and translated into 17 other languages. The service provides news features, analyses and expert commentaries

on the events and global processes affecting the economic, social and political development of peoples and nations, especially in the South.

IPS news services reaches over 1000 media worldwide.

- IPS projects: unchanged

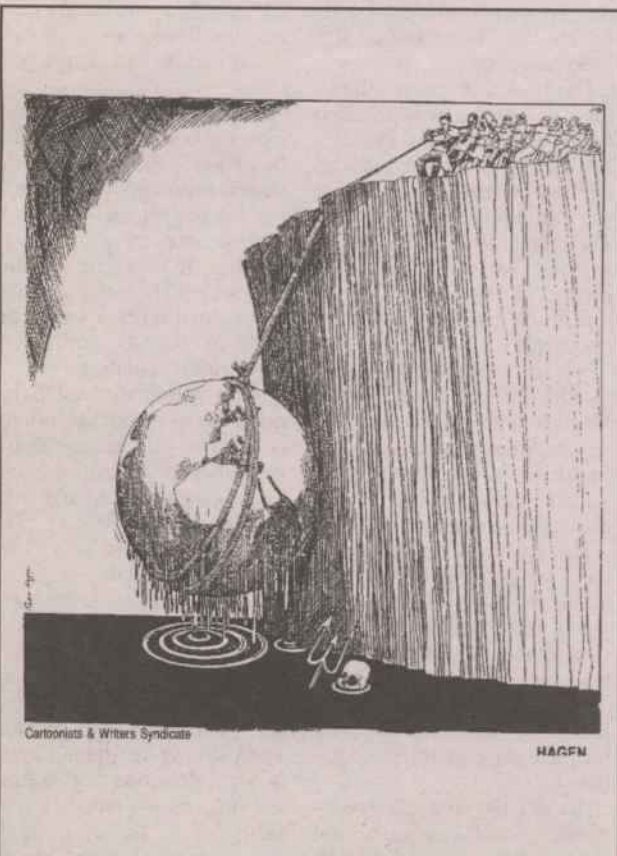
- IPS telecommunications: unchanged

IPS as an international NGO has consultative status (Category I) with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.



I am at your service. Picture: Klaus Holting.

World view



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

HACFN

Into The Night

On the first day of the summit the Main Committee charged with achieving consensus on the Declaration and Programme of Action before the heads of states arrive was already working late into the night.

One issue taxing their consensual capacities was the proposal, raised at the Third Prep Comm in New York, to include a 10th Commitment on education. An informal group was set up headed by India to try and resolve this question.

By late afternoon, the Main Committee agreed to skip discussion of the entire section on financial resources, which includes 20/20.

The chairman was reported to have said he would resume discussions on it only when he considered some degree of consensus had already been arrived at by the delegations. Closed meetings are expected to convene on this issue.

Hopes had been expressed for speedy resolution. At its first meeting, the Committee removed its first bracket, replacing the word "impro-

ved" by the word "ensure" in a recommendation to strengthen policies and programmes to broaden the participation of women.

And at the dialogue between the G-77 and NGOs, a senior Philippines official said there had been an agreement by governments to remove all brackets by Wednesday so "that the document will be a finished product by the time the heads of state and government - so you have only two days to lobby."

Whatever brackets are removed, the document will still not satisfy some leading NGOs.

World Council of Churches General Secretary, Konrad Raiser, told the plenary: "What can the 'peoples of the world' expect from this World Summit on Social Development where so many laudable intentions are formulated? It seems to me that our current dilemma is that we use a social development model when we state our intentions, but that we apply an economic growth model when we act."

When in Denmark do as the Danes

by Mahesh Uniyal

Inspired by Denmark's decision to cancel foreign debt owed by five poor countries, development activists at the Social summit in Copenhagen are pressing for other nations to follow suit.

NGOs from both rich and poor nations plan to lobby each of the 184 nations represented at the Social Summit to follow the example of the host government.

"There is enough in the summit agenda which can be implemented today," Susan Davis of the U.S.-based Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), told Terra Viva. "We want the leaders to get up on the rostrum and say they will do it."

Danish foreign aid minister Poul Nielson will announce the debt forgiveness plan on Friday to underline Copenhagen's commitment to ease the heavy debt burden of the developing world.

Debt relief is one of the

major concerns at the U.N.'s World Summit for Social Development, but richer nations want a case-by-case write-off rather than a global forgiveness plan.

Under the Danish proposal, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Angola, Bolivia and Ghana will no longer have to pay back the 1,057 billion kroner owed to the Danish foreign aid agency, Danida. Half of Egypt's financial liabilities to Denmark will also be cancelled.

Denmark donates about 10 billion kroner yearly for development schemes, more than half of it to projects in 20 African countries.

Lobbying by NGOs at the three preparatory talks for the summit prompted Ambassador Juan Somavia who chaired the talks, to write letters to every governmental delegation to respond to the request by civil groups for debt cancellation.

Activists regard the servicing of foreign debt as one of the biggest obstacles to efforts to reduce poverty in developing countries.

In the Final Analysis

Kleptocrats and Development Aid

By Kunda Dixit

Kickbacks and payoffs have for so long been a part of the aid business that it is seen as a given.

Corruption's roots went too deep, it was said, and pulling it out was too messy. But alarmed by an epidemic of bribery and graft cases worldwide and its increased acceptance as a necessary evil on the path to progress, aid advisers are looking at ways to buttress good government.

And at a time when ODA budgets are being slashed, they want to ensure that less aid money leaks out to line pockets. But corruption is a sensitive topic for aid organisations always wary of rubbing government officials the wrong way or embarrassing donors involved in shady deals with tied aid.

But more and more people are breaking the taboo by speaking out on corruption. How it greases international business transactions, makes it possible for inappropriate aid projects to be picked, funded and sold to recipient governments.

Even in Japan, where the standard operating procedure for sogoshas has been to get fat contracts in developing countries by disguising it as aid, there are questions.

"It is common knowledge that Japanese companies often work hand-in-glove with aid agencies," says Kazuo Sumi, professor of international law at Japan's Niigata University and a strong critic of Japanese-funded mega projects in the Third World.

International aid agencies are also getting less squeamish about attacking malfeasance. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in a report even proposes that crooked leaders and rich transnationals that offer bribes in return for contracts be henceforth be held accountable.

A group of aid specialists and academics have recently set up 'Transparency International' in Berlin — an anti-graft watchdog that is to corruption what Amnesty is for human rights abuses. TI chapters are sprouting in many countries.

Many developing country governments are corrupt because big business and multinationals tempt them with vast riches in exchange for juicy contracts. Now, international graft-busters want to draw up a blacklist of companies who do not sign an anti-bribery pledge. Countries like Ecuador have already taken a lead in imposing a no-bribe conditionalities.

Some economists have argued that in tangled Third World bureaucracies, corruption plays a positive role by acting as a 'lubricant' to foreign investment and economic growth. Corruption, it is argued, is often the only way to get things done and what is wrong if it spreads the wealth around a bit.

Constructive corruption

They point to the notorious graft in some of East Asia's fastest growing economies and make a case for "constructive corruption" which contributes to gross national product as long as the money does not exit the country as capital flight.

But aside from the moral argument that corruption is stealing and stealing is sin, development experts argue that companies always pass the cost of bribing officials to the ordinary consumer or tax payer.

Officials on the take are often tempted to approve out-sized, unnecessary and ill-suited infrastructure since bigger projects carry bigger kickbacks. Social services like basic health and primary education get left out because there are no kickbacks.

Also, the huge riches that can be made in government attracts dangerous predators to politics.

Former U.N. official Erskine Childers sums up the corruption flow chart: "Donors put dictators into power with funds. Export funds from donor countries gave him bribes, the dictators send all this money back to secret bank accounts in the donor countries. It will take years to recover from all this, but now the donors who once supported these dictators demand instant democracy as a condition for aid."

It is still legal in many rich countries to pay kickbacks to foreign officials. According to one estimate, German companies list up to 600 million marks a year as expenses for tax-deductible bribes in their export markets, much of it developing countries.

In its Human Development Report, UNDP says corruption flourishes in secrecy, and the first weapon against it is transparency and free information. Democracy helps, too. Many Asian countries are by now so disgusted with venal rulers that they are using new freedoms to vote them out of office.

The Japanese public has been overwhelmingly voting for reformist-minded politicians. South Korea's new civilian leaders are slashing through corruption in the military and bureaucracy. In Taiwan, the ruling party is on the defensive over allegations of graft in high places.

The 1992 street revolt in Thailand was manifestation of public anger boiling over because of official abuse and corruption. The Philippines saw one of history's most spectacular plunders under a former dictator.