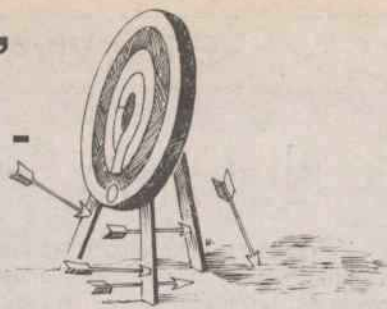


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THE INDEPENDENT DAILY OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TERRAVIVA

COPENHAGEN

MARCH 4, 1995

NUMBER 1

NGOs try to forge common ground as Summit deadline closes

Battle royal to bridge the divide

Non-governmental development activists are making last-ditch efforts ahead of Monday's formal opening to bridge differences in the positions they have adopted for the World Summit.

Negotiations aimed at finding a common ground ahead of the summit have left some NGOs satisfied with progress made in preparations for the final document to emerge from the summit — the first international forum on poverty.

Others say the document is inadequate and are refusing to compromise. They argue that the Bretton Woods institutions — the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) — will have to change before they shout success.

Sunday is make-or-break day. A meeting of NGOs will try to gather forces behind a single position that could also include a few official government delegations as well.

NGOs will focus on a political declaration which emerged from a February meeting in Oslo organised by the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development. The document states that the predominant neo-liberal market system, as a universal model for development, has failed.

It says the unregulated market system creates massive inequalities and unemployment.

Some NGOs say unless the more than 100 world leaders attending the summit act on the need to change an economic model promoted by organisations such as the Bank, the IMF, and transnational

By Yvette Collymore

organisations, it is pointless to try to address poverty.

"Clearly we've seen no change on fundamental questions," said Doug Hellinger of the Washington-based Development GAP, who has followed preparatory meetings for the summit. "The (main conference) document is fundamentally flawed."

Hellinger notes that while the draft document for the Mar. 6-12 summit commits the United Nations and its specialised agencies to providing more funding for social programmes, the document does not make people — civil society — central to the process of development.

In fact, the document "has no real bite" on a number of issues, including labour rights, wages, the question of credit for small businesses, and the need for a level playing field in moves towards privatisation and deregulation, Hellinger said.

"There are some NGOs who are opposed to the summit because they think nothing good will come of it, or they say that on their issues, they face a wall," said Horacio Morales, head of the Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement.

"But some NGOs, like us, are making incremental progress and we think there's hope," he said.

Tade Akin Aina, of the Council for the Development of Social said another problem centres on the fact that development researchers and activists on his continent are

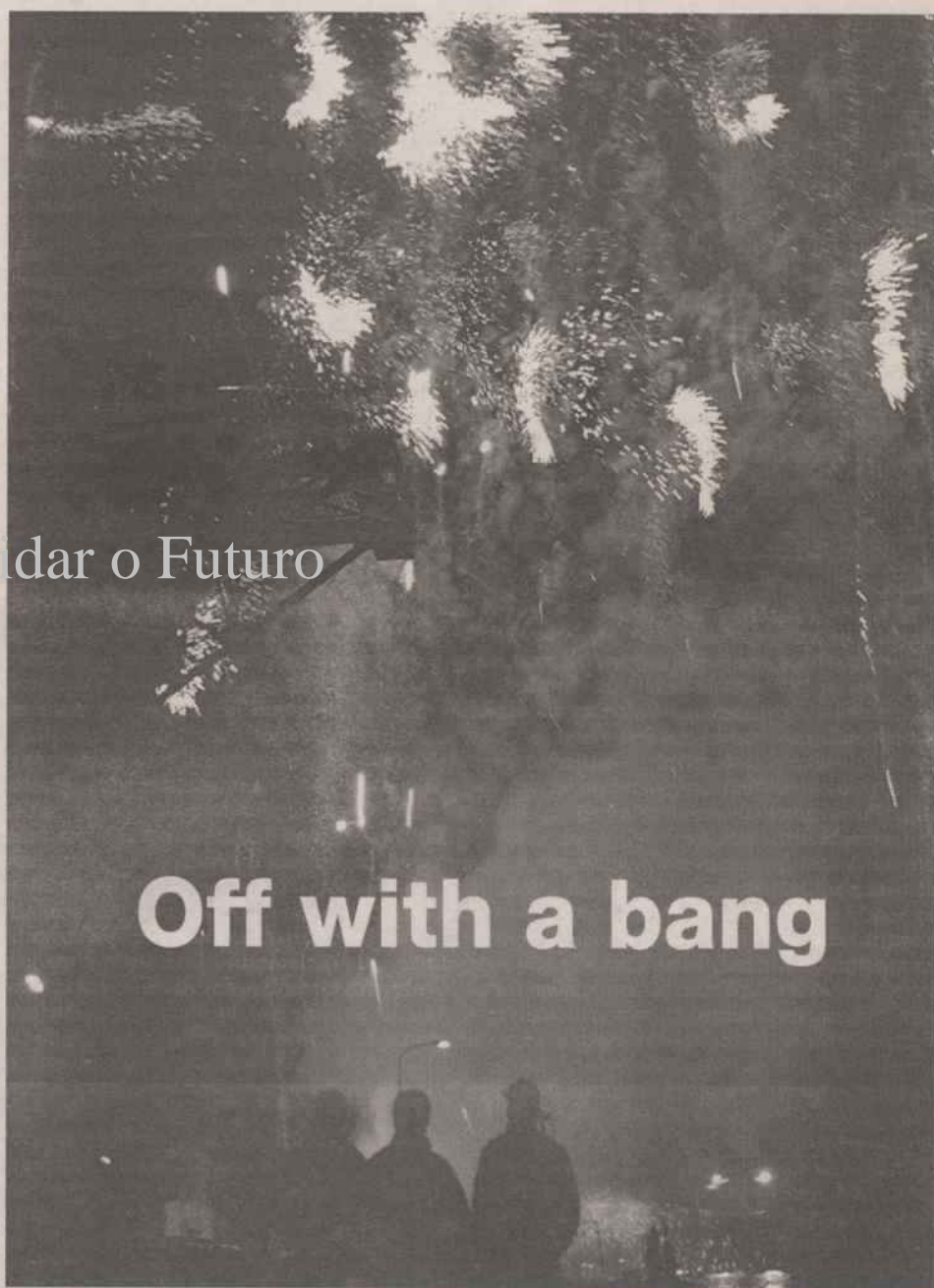
ill-prepared for the summit. People were suffering from "summit fatigue" after last year's population summit in Cairo, the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, he noted.

In any event, the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development hopes to get a few southern government delegations to sign onto its document. A document signed by the Forum's executive director Vegard Bye says the Bretton Woods institutions must be made fully transparent and accountable for their policies through supra-national mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the Bank and the IMF.

Among other recommendations, it says work to complete the Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should be urgently resumed.

For his part, Aina says he fears that the World Bank will opt to undertake a major share of the implementation of the summit's decisions. He cites the Global Environment Fund (GEF) which came out of the Rio summit. Aina and others decry the policies of the Bank which they say doles out structural adjustment policies in developing countries which undermine social programmes for the poor.

Thursday in Washington, the Bank pledged to increase their lending for education, health and population programmes. The multilateral lender says its funding for social programmes will rise from three billion dollars to five billion dollars.



dar o Futuro

Off with a bang

Fireworks marked the official opening of the NGO Forum Friday outside a conference hall at Holmen, Copenhagen's former naval base.

Upward of 2,000 people's organisations from all over the world will hold their alternative activities as leaders convene their Social summit a few kilometres away at the Bella Centre.

Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations Juan Somavia received a standing ovation from more than 1,000 NGO representatives as he signalled the "deep cry of alarm" all

over the world, urging governments to give social development the highest priority.

"To balance the budget is a good thing," said Somavia, Chair of the preparatory committee for the summit. "But why should a macro-economic balance be achieved based on imbalances in the lives of people?" Somavia and others stress that some 820 million people all over the world are either unemployed or underemployed.

"Why not have military reduction?" for example the

Chilean ambassador said. Ironically, as NGO Forum Secretary-General Jan Birket-Smith noted, torpedoes were once a main feature at the old naval base.

"Forces would have us believe that poverty is the fault of the poor and that exclusion is the responsibility of the excluded," said Somavia. He said the summit will have to battle with the question of how to turn words into action and declarations into policies.

Picture: Klaus Holsting

Would Kwame Nkrumah have agreed with Hamlet?

by Ruby Ofori

"Of course they don't tell you about Christiana in any of the papers about this conference do they?" said the cab driver.

As we drove in his oh so solid Benz to Holmen Island a former naval base where the NGO forum was taking place, I recalled the fragile ageing Peugots, Volkswagon Beetles and Renaults among others which have been turned into taxi's back in Accra Ghana from where I had come.

And of the cab driver who spoke perfect English, I thought that by Ghanaian standards he would be considered a wealthy man.

But he spoke with the concerns of the European lower middle class. "Initially," he said "the better off people moved into the abandoned buildings at Christiana. They had ideas of living in a commune getting away from the rat race. But then," he added with a cynical giggle "the raff moved in and took over and the rich ones decided to go back to more comfortable homes."

Christiana, he told me was a kind of squatter community complete with church, concert hall and graffiti. "I wouldn't mind but they're living there on my money, you know its our taxes that keep them," he said in sudden angry gush.

So I wondered how would this man feel about his government giving more of his money ie taxes to the poor of Ghana and others in the "Third World." It was a moot point.

One thing, however, which my driver could not begrudge the poor of Christiana was their local trade. In the summer when thousands converge on the city for the annual jazz festival, the local industry in hashish thrives. "they sell one and a half tonnes of the stuff per day," said my sensation-loving driver.

"I tried it once but it did nothing for me just gave me a huge appetite".

Go the NGO way, leaders told

Governments should rely more on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for implementing social policies aimed at achieving equity and social justice, according to a group of experts.

That is one of the conclusions emerging from a meeting Mar. 2-4 at Roskilde University near Copenhagen of policy planners, scholars and opinion leaders seeking to develop concrete recommendations for the Social Summit.

Called "From Social Exclusion to Social Cohesion: Towards a Policy Agenda," the meeting's conclusions will be presented today to the sponsoring organisations; the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organisation, UNESCO, the European Union, the French

Scientific Research Institution for Cooperation and Development, known as ORSTOM, and the university.

"We are trying to look at social problems in a broader context than the Social Summit," explained Per Homman Jespersen of Roskilde University.

The meeting is looking at social exclusion from the "angles of exclusion from goods and services, exclusion from wealth, from power, from social networks," Jespersen said.

Organising at the community level often means "looking outside the government sector" and turning for implementation to "NGOs, foundations which take care of the inter-relationships between citizens," said Ajit Bhalla of the ILO.

Economic giant must do better

NGO's quality test for Japanese aid

by Johanna Son

Japan has a special responsibility as the world's largest donor to improve the level and quality of its aid and to ease the burden its loans cause for developing nations, Japanese non-governmental organisations (NGOs) say.

At the NGO Forum convened on the eve of the World Summit, members of Japan's 'NGO Forum for Social Development' said the world expected Tokyo to demonstrate that it took seriously the social responsibilities expected of an economic superpower.

They said Japan's role

would be enhanced as it sought an expanded role in world affairs.

Japan is the world's largest source of official development assistance. The 11 billion dollars it provided in 1993 was one-fifth of the total aid disbursed by industrialised nations.

But this is far from a complete picture, NGOs say. Japan's aid may be the biggest but it makes up only 0.3 per cent of the country's GNP and is therefore below the 0.7 per cent of GNP level set for rich nations.

"Yes, Japan's aid is the big-

gest but the quality is not good because most of it is in the form of loans and not grants," said Kitazawa Yoko of the Japan-based Pacific Asia Resource Center and People to People Aid, groups that are part of the Japanese NGO Forum for Social Development.

"In other words, our aid is creating debt," she said in an interview. In the Philippines, where Japan is the largest source of foreign aid, activists say up to 90 per cent of Tokyo's aid is in the form of loans.

Kitazawa added that Japan's

aid has to be rechanneled from excessive focus on traditional infrastructure projects like roads, buildings and power plants to those that address social needs like education, health and aim to "alleviate absolute poverty."

In a report completed in time for the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, the Japanese NGO Forum said: "Japan must change the current policy in which most ODA is used for infrastructure and instead allocate more than 50 per cent to social development to directly improve people's lives."

Japanese aid is not without ill effects, these NGOs added.

Its loans are normally long term and carry interest rates as low as three per cent, but the rise in the yen's value has pushed up the debts of large aid recipients like China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Recipient countries, much like a case of 'friendly fire', are finding that while they appreciate Tokyo's generosity they are also burdened by burgeoning debt stocks because of the yen's appreciation.

The Japanese NGO Forum said the rise in the yen's value had as much as tripled some countries' debt in the past 10 years.

It also said the influx of Japanese ODA often forced receiving nations to spend 30 to 50 per cent of their budgets for debt service payments and cut back on spending for education, welfare, health and rural development.

In July 1994 Tokyo agreed to a reduction of debt owed by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in sub-Saharan Africa, but Japanese activists pointed out that even that position came with the caveat that a final decision should be left to individual negotiations at the Paris Club group of creditors.

The issue of debt reduction for medium-income countries has been a point of debate in preparatory meetings to the Copenhagen summit, with NGO activists saying many developing countries still needed debt relief though they may be posting decent growth rates or attracting foreign private capital.

Trade Unions - Jobs equality and justice

by Juan Carlos Rocha

Efforts to reduce poverty throughout the world are doomed to fail unless they include initiatives to increase employment, the ICFTU warned yesterday at the end of a three-day conference it held here on 'Jobs, Equality and Justice.'

The ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) also said it was awaiting the Social Development Summit with optimism and a "positive attitude" and described the upcoming meeting as "a step in the right direction."

The international labour umbrella pledged active support for trade unions' efforts to ensure that the Summit's proposed Declaration and Action Programme are implemented, adding that the meeting was a great opportunity to achieve greater integration of governments' social and economic policies.

The ICFTU, which has 125,576,560 individual members in 188 affiliates in 134 countries, warned that poverty, unemployment and social disintegration threatened world peace.

According to the ICFTU, there are 1.1 billion unemployed people in the world, living on average on less than one U.S. dollar a day. The majority are women, the group most vulnerable to the adverse effects of market policies that disregard the prevailing social inequalities.

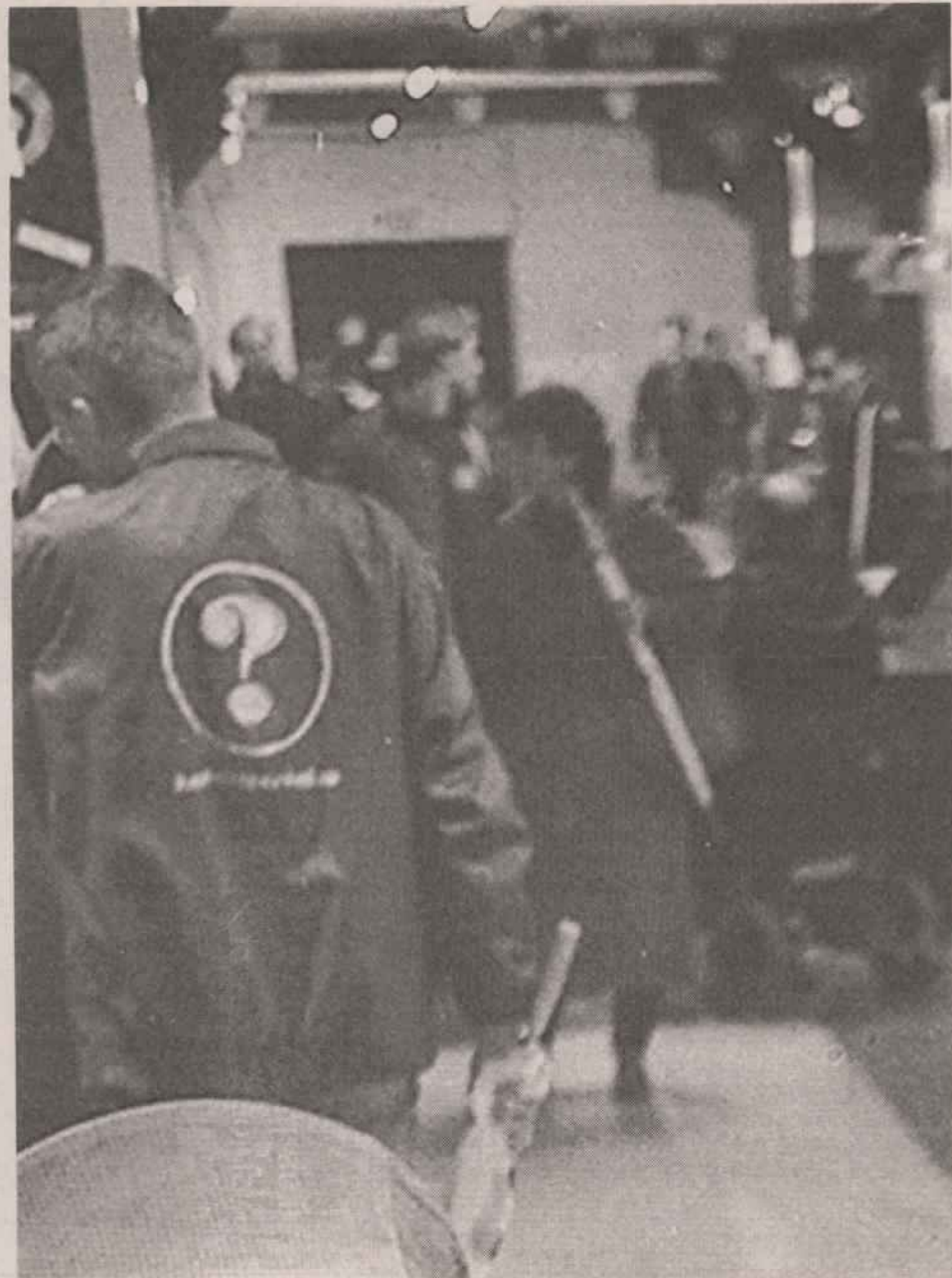
Children, too, are affected: there are an estimated 200 million minors - equivalent to eight percent of the global workforce of 2.4 billion - working throughout the world, the organisation said.

The ICFTU stressed that child labour is one of the most cruel examples of the effects of persistent poverty, which is most glaring in rural areas, especially in Africa, 65 per cent of whose countryfolk are poor, a rate that dwarfs those of other continents.

The unionists say they will also draw the Summit's attention to the "informal" sector which, in recent years, has grown to alarming proportions in developing countries and is characterised by conditions of total insecurity and salaries much lower than those earned by people with formal jobs.

In Africa, the informal sector represents 59 percent of urban employment, while the corresponding percentage in Asia is 53.

As a result, the ICFTU feels that the primary objective of the Summit should be to ensure the integration in national and international development policies of initiatives to alleviate poverty and increase employment.



New arrivals at the NGO Forum quizzed on their way in: Picture: Klaus Holsting

'A cultural cocktail'

Global Village - open to all

by Mahesh Uniyal

The shriek of the Zimbabwean performer is piercing. A long-haired Scandinavian member of the troupe animatedly pounds on African drums. The audience, drawn from across the globe, claps in unison with the actors.

All appear oblivious to the icy wind from the Oresund (the sea around Copenhagen) howling outside the low ceilinged attic in the disused naval store on the island of Holmen.

The performance, by Opgang 2, a Europe-based group, was described by the troupe as a cultural cocktail of North and South enacting Irish and Scandinavian legends, Brazilian and Danish dances - all to African music. They had failed to contact Asian artistes.

A five minute walk away, in a huge naval shed protected from the elements, is the site of the biggest ever international gathering in Denmark, appropriately described as the Global Village.

Beginning Friday, and continuing for the next 10 days, the island of Holmen, a 300-year-old naval base which once protected the danes from northern invaders, will be overrun by representatives of an estimated 10,000 non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

It is on that site that the NGOs plan to take their battle against the rich nation's indifference to Southern poverty - directly into the North's own forecourt.

The forum has drawn a wide spectrum of NGO delegates. Activists campaigning against sexual apartheid in Iran, for example, are present just beyond Holmen, in Christiansa, a 20 year old idyllic, self-ruled commune.

The NGO meeting in Holmen will run parallel to a conference of Heads of State and Government from more than 100 countries gathering for the Social Summit.

Strangely enough, it is only now that the Danes are waking up to what the organisers hope will be a global

get together to make mass deprivation a 20th century phenomenon.

"For a long time there was nothing in the papers or television," said Lise Orskov from Aarhus, Denmark's second biggest city. "Many people still don't know."

Even now, there is little discussion about the real issues of the summit in the local media, which is more concerned about the availability of hotels rooms and night clubs for the visitors, she says.

Locals though, are concerned about the enormous sums of money being spent for the meeting.

While the danes worry about the diversion of their taxes from health care and schooling into what some regard as merely a U.N show, those gathered in Holmen yesterday had different concerns.

Anil Kumar Singh of the Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI) which represents thousands of community-based self help groups in India, thinks that it is time to change the way poverty is viewed by rich and poor governments.

"It will be a big gain if the summit brings about the realisation that poverty is not measured by how much you consume," he says. South Asia has long held up the example of simple living, based on meeting essential needs, he told Terra Viva.

Singh says that affluent Northern lifestyles are not the goal to be aimed at by poor countries. But he has little hopes that the talk in Copenhagen will move away from the one track approach to poverty removal.

Western unemployment does - about 500 dollars a month in Denmark - are not the answer to Third World joblessness, but rather the right to work. The Indian government has assured NGO delegates in his country that it is working to ensure

that every citizen can be productively employed, says Singh.

To keep a count of growing global poverty during the summit, Thierry Lemaesquier, director for poverty alleviation and social development at the U.N's Development Programme will start a poverty clock Friday evening at the NGO forum which will run through Mar. 12.

The clock will measure the number of babies born in poor families across the globe during the social summit. "The World Summit and the NGO Forum will mark the international community's commitment to stop the clock" says a UNDP press release.

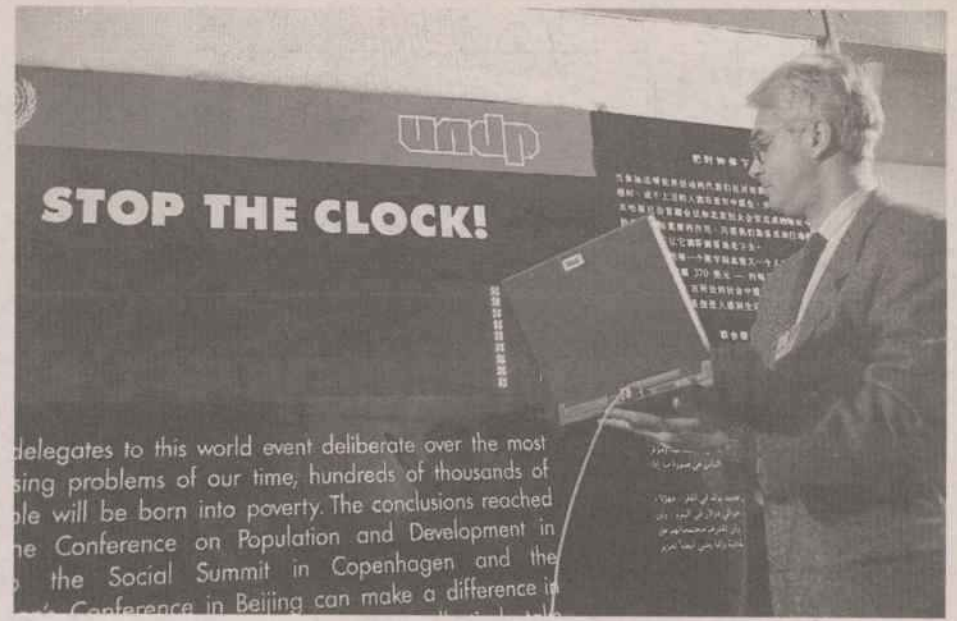
Discussions at the ngo forum will be carried out in a babel of tongues and to make the talks easier to follow, locally-hired translators will be at hand. The languages available range from Chinese, Swahili and Spanish. There is a single Macedonian translator.

Marian Bach and Fleming Jespersen, Spanish language students at the Copenhagen business school which offers the best language courses in Denmark, are among the hundreds of translator volunteers at the summit.

"It is a great chance to be here," says Jespersen who will be translating from Spanish to English and Danish and the other way round for anyone who asks for his services at the translation centre in the forum.

A range of entertainment has been lined up for the NGO delegates, including Colombian bands, dance troupes from Somalia, Sri Lanka, Greenland and India. Tibetan and Nigerian theatre and music from countries ranging from Brazil to Sierra Leone and from Canada to Burma.

On the night of Mar. 10, a giant pyramid of laser beams will light up the sky over Copenhagen and cultural institutions in the city will remain open all night that day.



delegates to this world event deliberate over the most pressing problems of our time, hundreds of thousands of people will be born into poverty. The conclusions reached at the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Social Summit in Copenhagen and the Conference in Beijing can make a difference in the lives of billions.

Ticking off the poor

By Jaya Dayal

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday pushed the start button on a clock counting the number of people born into poverty over the course of the Social Summit.

"Every number on the clock indicates another person born into poverty - these are people who can expect to earn as little as 370 dollars per year or about one dollar per day," said the New York-based organisation.

According to UNDP, the number of people currently living in absolute poverty in developing countries is 1.3 billion - a figure that is increasing by nearly 25 million each year.

It says that new data indicates that the number of poor people worldwide is rising at roughly the same rate as the annual population growth of the developing world - roughly two percent.

Based on these statistics, UNDP says the "poverty clock" will tick off the number of women and men born into poverty at a rate of 47 every minute.

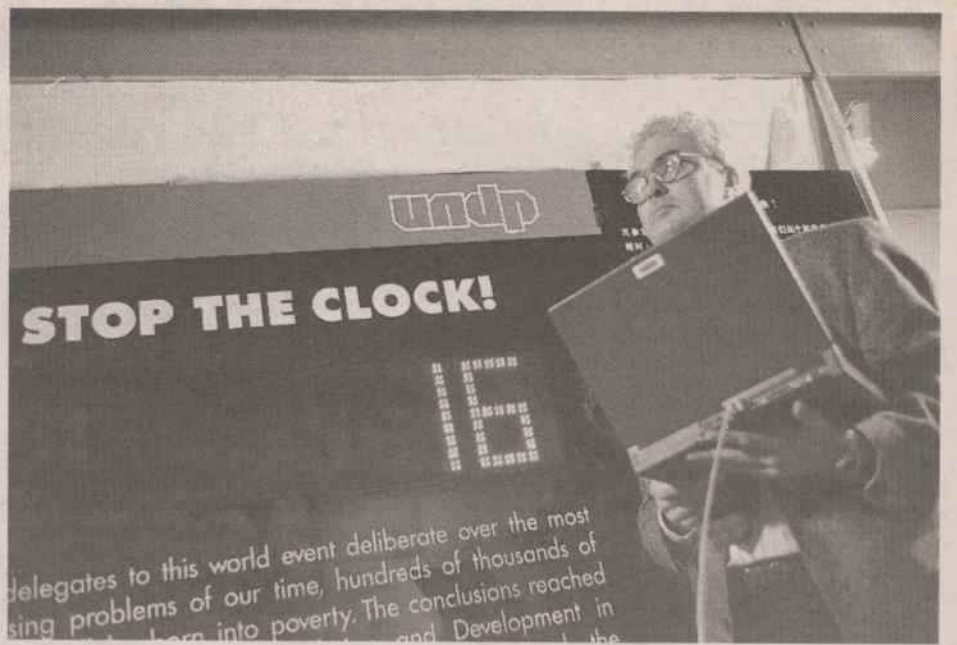
UNDP, together with the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) warn that any gains made at recent U.N. conferences like the 1992 Earth

Summit and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development "will be lost unless we collectively take action to stop the poverty clock from ticking."

World leaders at the Social Summit are expected to make a commitment "to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce substantially overall poverty."

But the approach and wherewithal to achieve that goal remains to be thrashed out by delegates over the next nine days.

Meanwhile, the "poverty clock", located at the NGO forum, continues to record its toll of suffering.



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Farmers caucus claims power in numbers

The world's small producers want their voices heard. Their message is simple and they want to proclaim it from the rooftops: "We are the majority of the world".

Through the Small Farmers, Producers and Micro-entrepreneurs Caucus embracing people from various countries, they are pressing for 15 amendments to the official conference documents.

How can any international plan be designed without taking account of the central role of small producers? Robert Esposito, coordinator of the group, put this question rhetorically to Terra Viva.

"This is about giving voice to a majority of the people", Esposito said.

The Caucus' main problem has been to overcome ignorance about its existence - to gain visibility. After all, who are they?

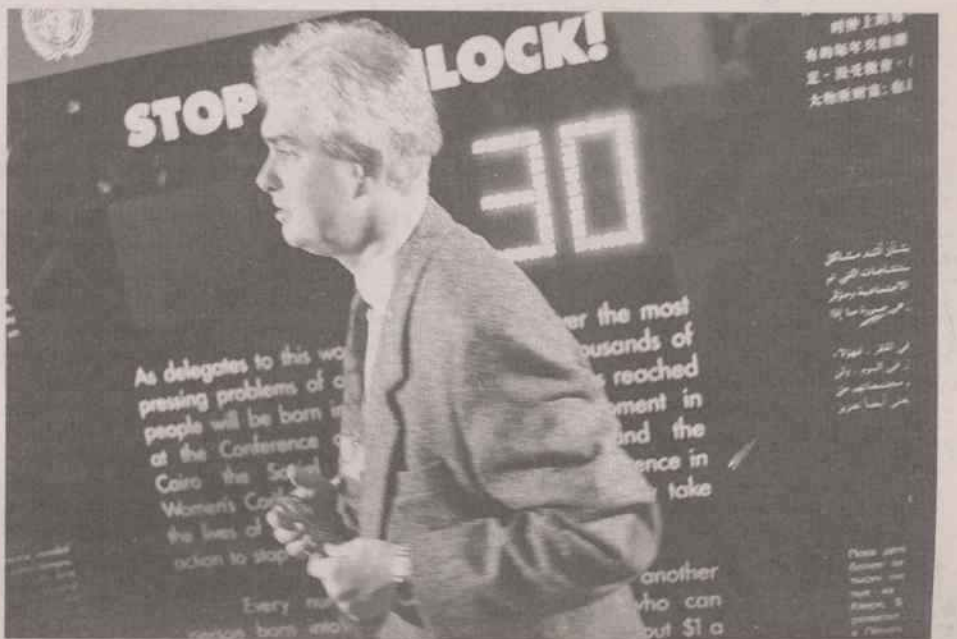
To answer these questions, the Caucus has spread leaflets announcing itself in the Global Village of the NGO Forum. When the caucus holds its first meeting today, Mar. 4, that process will be further advanced.

Daily meetings are planned for the duration of the Summit, involving delegations representing 80 organizations from 30 countries.

From the beginning, this international group detected a "serious void" in the official documents and proceedings of the Social Summit in terms of lack of recognition of small producers and their needs.

These documents did not even acknowledge that small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs were the majority of the world.

The Caucus felt that small producers generated most of the jobs, produced most of the food, managed most of earth's natural resources and cared for the next generation.



As delegates to this world event deliberate over the most pressing problems of our time, hundreds of thousands of people will be born into poverty. The conclusions reached at the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Social Summit in Copenhagen and the Conference in Beijing can make a difference in the lives of billions.

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Those elusive targets

Opinion

In 1978, the Alma Ata conference called for "Health for All by the Year 2000". In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) will call for "the attainment by all peoples of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life".

Is it a tribute to Alma Ata that, in fact, the exact same words were used back then? Has it really taken us 17 years of running to stand so very still? The WSSD Declaration and Programme of Action has also proposed some numerical targets to achieve by the year 2000. This is presumably an attempt to give the over-general, 86-page, 100 paragraph draft document a sense of specificity. These are some of the targets:

- Reduction of infant and under-five mortality rate in all countries by one-third of the 1990 level, or 50 to 70 per 1000 live births respectively, whichever is less. Regular summiters will remember that the exact same target was adopted at the World Summit on Children five years ago.

- Universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80% of primary school-age children. Back in 1990, participants in the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, declared their commitment to the "achievement of universal access to, and completion of, primary education by the year 2000".

So the WSSD target is in fact more modest than the Jomtien target! We have to ask, is it

any more achievable? - The Social Development Summit wants maternal mortality, reduced by one-half the 1990 level by the year 2000.

So did the Children's Summit in 1990. And so did the International Conference on Population in Mexico in 1984! What is the point of global targets? Some people argue that global targets create a consensus on key issues and put pressure on countries and the international community to achieve results.

But surely global targets have been devalued by being repeated from one conference to the next? Moreover, there is rarely any indication of how much the targets will cost, or practical suggestions regarding implementation.

And, even where an effort has been made to cost targets - for example, it has been estimated that achievement of health targets could cost around four billion dollars - donors have shown no interest in making new money available (the words "new and additional" resources are probably the most bracketed of recent years).

It may make sense to adopt global targets for issues that are the same across countries and regions - for example, UNCED's commitment to keep carbon dioxide emissions at the level of 1990 by the year 2000, and to eliminate ozone depletion by 1996.

But although most social development issues

are shared across regions, the solutions and approaches need to be very country-specific to succeed. A bottom-up approach to global targets may be more appropriate in this case. Each country needs to analyze its own situation - in some cases, countries may even need to collect the data that will enable them to draw policy conclusions.

Governments, working with civil society, can then establish and cost targets, assess the resources available nationally and the support that could be forthcoming from the international community, and establish mechanisms for implementation.

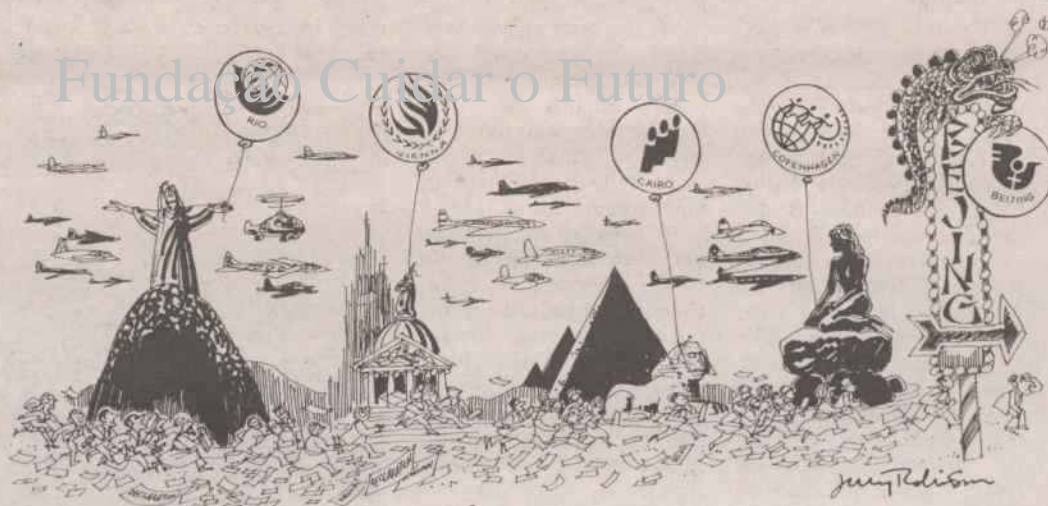
Donors might be much more forthcoming if presented with a realistic, implementable programme of action at the country level rather than a price tag for a global fund that will need a whole new machinery to set in motion. National targets could then be aggregated into global targets.

Fortunately, there are several references in the WSSD to the importance of work at the country level. For instance, there is no attempt to set a global target for poverty eradication. Rather, governments are invited to prepare national poverty eradication plans which "should establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets".

It is in the country where the real work needs to be done where the international community must focus its efforts.

They're back, older, but not necessarily wiser

The Return of the Summit-hoppers



JERRY ROBINSON,
United States. C Writers
and Artists Syndicate.

You see them at the accreditation queues, the same faces that were in Rio, Vienna, in Cairo. More wrinkles, slightly greyer but not necessarily wiser. Warming up for the feats of verbal gymnastics that lies in store in Copenhagen in the coming week.

So far, there is nothing to show that the outcome of this summit will be any different from previous ones. And yet, this is the Mother of all Summits. In Rio, world leaders looked at ways to save the planet pretending human beings did not exist. Vienna concerned itself with man's inhumanity to man. In Cairo, they looked at the earth as if only human beings existed, and too many of them at that. But for the first time, the world community is trying to treat the disease and not the symptoms of the global crisis. And yet, what is glaringly different this time compared to Rio, Vienna and Cairo is the media apathy. Blame it on summit fatigue, but six months

before the Earth Summit the coverage was already building up to a crescendo. Vienna had its own human rights pyrotechnics. Much to the delight of the international media (which does not seem to be able to dwell on more than one issue at a time) the Vatican hijacked the Cairo population conference and turned it into an Abortion Summit.

But Copenhagen? A news database search reveals only a smattering of feeble stories in the past week. Anyone who has seen the Rio and Cairo declarations will find the Copenhagen draft has a familiar ring to it. The international commitments are repeated almost verbatim. But compared to Rio and Cairo where things revolved around new commitments on aid, this time the emphasis on reallocation of existing aid.

ODA with a human face. Aid that does not flow back uphill to the donor, that does not solely benefit the elite class in

Comment by Kunda Dixit

recipient countries, that goes more for primary education than for universities, more for community health than fancy hospitals. Efforts to quantify this commitment into a 20/20 formula in the Copenhagen document does not look likely to be passed in the coming days. But by standards one has come to expect in U.N. declarations, the clauses in the draft calling for socially responsible structural adjustment and for a more responsive World Bank and International Monetary Fund are far-reaching. True, the declaration does not make you gasp, but it is an unprecedented admission that all's not well with the way international banking bureaucrats who no one elected have been making policy over the past four decades. Even the recognition that poverty is a root cause and

making a general commitment to eradicate it is a step forward. The draft also carries forward the most important component of the Cairo declaration: that women's status and female literacy are key issues. In Copenhagen, a largely-male gathering of world leaders, will recognise that giving women more control over their lives is the precursor to development.

And that will be the bridge to Beijing and the Fourth International Women's Conference in September.

Of course, it is very easy to be cynical about all this. Why are we spending 25 million dollars to hold a Poverty Summit in one of the world's most affluent capitals? The endless haggling over commas and semicolons and a waterfall of words, words words. More pledges and promises because government leaders know they really don't have to do much when they get back home - it's all non-binding.

In 1970 rich countries said they would chip in 0.7 per cent of their GNP to development aid. Only four countries attained that target.

In Rio, world leaders said \$125 billion in new monies would be needed to save the biosphere. Hardly anyone paid up. And in Cairo, they pledged \$17 billion a year by the year 2000 in new money for development. So far, same story.

In a way it is good Copenhagen has shunned new aid pledges. It is much more realistic to try and reform present structures and make sure existing money is used more effectively.

However much money is available, in the end it does not make much difference unless it is used properly. Summit-hopping is all very well, but the proof of the pudding lies in the implementation. Otherwise, the only one who is going to benefit from all this summitry will be the airline industry.

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

EVENTS

4th

MARCH

The Decimal time Society

"Its only a matter of time
Democracy, conflict, inflation, deficits, employment, productivity, education, crime..
09:00 12:45
Conference
English
C.2,17*

Udsyn & Indblik

"La Integracion de la Salsa"

19:00 20:45
Workshop
English
C.2,17*

Centre Béninois pour le Développement des Initiatives - la Base

1) Droits de l'homme
Droit de l'homme, environnement, femmes, pauvreté, développement, intégration sociale/video facilities.
09:00 10:45

Workshop
French
C.2,10*

FN Forbundet Danish United Nations Association

1) Our Global Neighbourhood
Global Governance and UN Reforms
09:00 12:45
Conference
English
D.1,34

Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team AMURT

1) RAWA: Renaissance Artists, Writers Association (CANCELED) (CANCELED)
Education (Neo humanistic education). Tandau + Kaustiki dance.
11:00 16:45
Workshop
English, Danish, Spanish
G.2,39

Den Danske Komite for Kurdernes Menneskerettigheder

1) Social Welfare and Development
An Option for Kurdish People?
Case: Iraq
Economic sanctions, Iraqi blockade, refugees, internal & external
13:00 18:45
Workshop
English
G.1,35

FN Forbundet Danish United Nations Association

2) Our Global Neighbourhood
Global Governance and UN Reforms
15:00 18:45
Conference
English
G.2,39

International Center for Nonviolent Communication

A presentation of nonviolent communication with Marshall Rosenberg
Nonviolent communication in conflict areas. Presentation of nonviolent communication.
19:00 20:45
Other
English
C.4,33

International Council for Adult Education

Adult education and reduction of poverty

15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C.3,22*

Council for the development of Social Science in Africa

An African research agenda for social development.
Social policies, structural adjustment, citizenship, conflicts, urbanization, human rights.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C.2,18*

Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development

Can Basic Education lead to Social Development?
Starting from the Association's experience, how can primary schools be an entry to a comprehensive integrated development of villages.
13:00 14:45
Conference
English
C.2,10*

Small Farmers, Producers, and Microentrepreneurs Caucus

Caucus for small farmers, Producers, and Microentrepreneurs
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C.3,30*

Academy for Educational Development, Inc.

Child and Youth Development
Demonstrating the Power of Grassroots and Community Action.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C.2,14*

Cape Kenya Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment

Child Labour in Kenya

17:00 20:45
Workshop
English
C.2,12*

International Wages for Housework Campaign

Counting women's unwaged work: An int. strategy against overwork and poverty
Sexism, racism, and other discrimination. plans against women, incl. the double day and structural adjustment.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
H.1,42

NGO BULLETIN BOARD

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Ask an InfoGuide

Over 400 volunteer InfoGuides will help you by answering all of your questions about what, when and where. Ask the InfoGuides. They can also tell you about Denmark, the host country of the NGO Forum and the UN Summit.

Police

The police station has been moved and is now on the first floor of the Conference Center.

APC Computer Network

Association for Progressive Communication is located on the first floor of the Conference Center. Registered participants can use the facilities.

Computer Facilities

Next to the APC Center in the Conference Center. Registered participants only.

Copy Service

The Copy Center is located on the First Floor Conference Center.

First Floor Conference Center

Information, accommodation, tourist information, NGO Press Connection, booking of meeting rooms, police, newspaper kiosk, bar/cafe, bank, technical bank, writing facilities, copy service, APC center and message service.

Program

The official program will be given to all registered participants at Check-In. Visitors can buy a program in the First Floor Conference Center. Program changes can be published daily in NGO News Terra Viva.

Kiosker

Global Village and First Floor Conference Center.

Slide Show

The slide show on the NGO Forum, "From Naval Base to Global Meeting Place" will be shown continually in the First Floor Conference Center. The show will be updated every day with 10-15 new pictures of yesterday's events.

Conference Newspapers

Terra Viva, Viva Autrement, Politiken Summit and other conference newspapers are free and available at Check-In, The Main Entrance, Global Village, First Floor Conference Center, Steelworks, Restaurant (Building E) and for the press, in the Press Center.

NGO Night News

Will be shown on Denmark's Radio Television Channel 1 from March 6th to 12th after the regular programming. Right after NGO Night News, a number of short films will be shown (NGO Shorts Film Festival). These films have been provided by the participants. The NGO Night News will be repeated the following day at 7:00 and 8:00 A.M..

Summit Channel

This English language Radio station will be sent every day from March 5th to March 12th from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. (Sunday March 5th from 9-8). The Radio frequency is FM 100 Mhz

TV-transmission from the Plenum in Bella Center

In the Steelworks, there is a large TV screen that will provide direct transmissions of the plenum in the Bella Center from March 6th-12th, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Technical Bank

In the Technical Bank on the First Floor of the Conference Center, it is possible to rent extra AV equipment which cannot be found in the meeting rooms, such as mobile interpretation equipment and special video equipment.

Telephone Cards

Telephone Cards can be bought in the first floor of the Conference Center and at the Post Office.

Volunteer Interpreters

In the Interpreter's Service in the First Floor Conference Center, it is possible to book volunteer interpreters (English, French, Spanish and Danish and to a lesser extent: Russian, Italian and German).

CORRECTION

In the Official Program, in the directory of exhibitors, and meeting facilities, we have unfortunately written Republic of China for participants who come from China. We deeply regret this mistake and extend our deepest apologies to the Chinese delegates.

Internal Name PS Filename

@doc fonts:Geneva

Genev

Nd AntiqueOlive Nord

AntiqueOlive-Nord

AntiqOliNor

Blk AntiqueOlive Black

AntiqueOlive-Black

AntiqOliBla

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

- Institute for Religious Studies**
Cultural Experiences Against Urban Violence and Prejudices
Experiences with groups and communities in Rio to fight violence, Aids, gender discrimination, problems with street children and environment.
09:00 12:45
Conference
Spanish
C,2,14*
- Association des Villages Moukandi pour L'Environnement et le Dev.**
Découverte de AVMED au Gabon
Banque mondiale pour les ONG.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
French
C,3,29*
- Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation**
Development Caucus
Daily briefing
09:00 10:45
Other
English, Danish
B,1,03*
- Comité Scientifique Femmes et Developpement**
Développement et lutte contre la pauvreté en Afrique
Adoption d'un manifeste
11:00 12:45
Workshop
French
C,2,15*
- 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,2,09*
- Baha'i Community of Venezuela Int. educator, principal's train**
Emerging Nations: The essential role of education
Panel discussion, basic criteria for an effective edu. system, values, universal access, 21st cent. needs
15:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,2,10*
- Nigerian & African NGO Associations**
Employment and Poverty
Employment, poverty, art & culture./Dance, music.
17:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,3,19*
- International Movement ATD, Franc Fourth World**
Extreme Poverty, Social and Cultural Development and Human Rights
11:00 12:45
Video film
French
C,3,21*
- Women's Federation for World Peace.**
Family The school of love
Family values, true love.
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,2,07*
- International Council of women**
Girl Child Health
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
C,3,30*
- InterAfrican Committee (IAC)**
Harmful traditional practices, such as: Female genital mutilation, child marriage
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,4,33
- Vivid communication with women in their Cultures**
How to empower women in the family
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
H,1,41*
- The Family**
Human Rights
Multi ethnic Show. / Music.
09:00 12:45
Music
English
C,4,33
- The People's Decade for Human Rights Education, Inc.**
Human Rights Education and Society
Hearing on human rights education as a part of a report of human rights education and society, prepared by the independent commission for human rights education
09:00 12:45
Other
English
C,3,26*
- 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*
- ACTIONAID (Policy and Research)**
Improving the focus of aid
Increasing + improving the quality of overseas development assistance.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*
- 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*
- The Danish Host Committee for NGO Forum '95**
Keynote speakers daily briefing
11:00 12:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*
- Lifeseeing in Denmark**
Interaction. Adult education. Show.
17:00 18:45
Music
English
C,2,13*
- CASA, Center for Alternativ Samfund Analyse**
Løbende overvågning af den sociale udvikling og topmødeerklæring
11:00 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish
H,1,41*
- Det Danske Baha'i Samfund, Danish Baha'i Community**
Meditation room
09:00 20:45
Other
English
C,2,08*
- Red de educacion popular entre mujeres**
Mujer y Desarrollo: Alternativas a la feminización pobreza
Mujer, desarrollo y economía.
09:00 16:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,3,27*
- Norwegian Peoples Aid**
Multicultural Milieu amongst children
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,13*
- The Environment Ameliorators (University of Ibadan)**
Music
11:00 14:45
Music
English
F, Steelworks
- Kvinder i musik**
New Nordic Chamber Music
With Warne Kvartet
15:00 18:45
Music
English
D,2,34A
- 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,2,14*
- Galiza Solidaria**
Not Spanish blockade against Galiza Language Rights. / Video Film.
19:00 20:45
Conference
Spanish
C,2,13*
- World Peace Council.**
Peace and Development
Interlinking between human concerns and Peace and Development.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C,3,28*
- 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,2,17*
- UBINIG Policy Research for Development Alternatives**
Peoples Perspective on Social Development
Employment, Women and Development.
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,31*
- Womens Party**
Political participation and political decision making
Development of Women.
17:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*
- Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era**
Popular Education Workshop: Critique of SAPs impact on Women
Poverty, Social Integration, Population, Environment, Development
13:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,31*
- International Population & Family Association**
Population women Social Policy
Ethics
09:00 16:45
Conference
English
C,3,23*
- Rural Reconstruction Nepal**
Poverty Alleviation; The Need for Agrarian Reforms
09:00 10:45
Other
English
C,2,06*
- AndeStudio**
Poverty, Environment destruction & Drug crops in Peru
Alternative development, a social & economic approach.
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,2,10*
- European Network on Debt and Development.(Eurodad)**
Presentation of "world credit tables"
Alternative publication to world bank.
09:00 10:45
Other
English
G,2,36
- Humanistische Bewegung**
Presentation of the Humanist Copenhagen Declaration
The human being as a central value
The diversity of cultures.
11:00 12:45
Conference
Spanish
H,1,40*
- Dansk Røde Kors Danish Red Cross**
Programming Relief for Development
- How to incorporate development strategies into a relief operation.**
13:00 16:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,2,13*
- United Nations Association Pasadena CA, Foothills Church**
Promoting Global Social Integration through Education
Teaching about the UN, Model UN, UNESCO Guidelines and Citizen Empowerment.
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,3,29*
- Romanian Solar Energy Society c/o Physics Dept**
Renewable energy strategy and social development.
Employment, New jobs, Environment protection and Sustainable development.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,29*
- Forum for Energy and Development INFORSE**
Small Islands and Global Warming
The Social consequences.
15:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,30*
- TyInternational Platform of Black,Migrants & Refugee Women**
Social and Economic Exclusion of Women
Women, Employment and Poverty.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C,2,11*
- NGO's Council in Actions in Benin**
Social integration of motorically and mentally disabled.
Resolving their problems.
09:00 10:45
Video film
French
G,1,35
- Københavns Kvindedaghøjskole**
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,3,29*
- 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*
- Center for Studies on Asia and Oceania.**
Studies on Asia in Cuba, collaboration with NGOs world & Int. workshop

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

Presentation of labour of CEAO and collaboration with NGO's world and Universities of Denmark. / Video Film.

17:00 18:45
Conference
Spanish
C.2,14*

ENDA Tiers Monde (Environment et Developpement).

The fight against environmental and cultural poverty and for citizenship. Concrete approach and perspectives of the poverty eradication issue. The citizenship concept as a potential for social integration.

15:00 16:45
Workshop
C.2,17*

World Federalist Resources

The Plan for a United Nations Basic Income

A KNO income for all people.
17:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C.2,15*

Party of Supporting of Community of Independent States

The role of NGO's in social integration C/S and it's center

11:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C.4,32

Center for practiceoriented feminist of the fach hoch schule

The way of African life
Polygamy reality & chances
15:00 16:45
Theatre

F, Steelworks

African Cultural Network

Theater and Dance
19:00 20:45
Theatre

F, Steelworks

The Egyptian Delegation

Title will be provided
17:00 20:45
Movie
English
C.3,31*

The Egyptian Delegation

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

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

To open a new era of international cooperation

All organisations have a responsibility for playing a role in a spirit of partnership; dynamics of cooperation

15:00 16:45
Other
English, Danish
C.2,07*

Projekt Springbræt Dag og Døgncentret

Together: Differences are strengthening youth exchange as means of integration

17:00 18:45
Workshop

English
C.3,29*

EVENTS
3th-12th
MARCH

The Social Minefield

The Social Minefield will be just one initiative among 1500 others, when NGO Forum 95 opens on the Royal Dockyard in Copenhagen from March 3rd 12th, as a parallel conference to the UN social summit meeting.

Juan Somavia, the Chilean president of the summit meeting, has underlined the importance of the meeting by warning against the many social ticking bombs which today threaten peace and security all over the world: one milliard people are living in acute poverty millions are in exile because of war and hunger social inequality is increasing and this polarization splits states and populations

More than 50 Danish and foreign organisations have got together in The Social Minefield to discuss how to dismantle these ticking bombs and how to attain a decent living for every human being.

All seminars, workshops, lectures and discussions will be held in English or Danish with translation. In case you need translation into another language than English or Danish, please contact the organizers of the Minefield.

The Minefield is situated in the middle of the old torpedo hall, which during NGO Forum will act as a global village.

Friday March 3rd.

15.30
Welcome to the Social Minefield
Official opening and reception

Mombaza
Afrojazz

16.00
Welcome
Carsten Andersen
Chairman, The Danish Council on Social Welfare

16.15
Drums Dance from Greenland
Kasâluk Qâvigaq

16.30
Global Social Welfare
Carl Einar Jørgensen
chrm. International Council on Social Welfare in Denmark and Director Danish Bosnian College

16.45
40.000 Children Are Dying Daily
Sculptor Jens Galschiøt Christopher-
sen

17.00
Bosnian FolkMusic and FolkDance
Danish Bosnian College

17.30
Prospects of a World with More Justice
Writer Sara Stinus
On expectations about the summit meeting

17.45
Bosnian folkmusic and Folkdance

Saturday March 4th.

10.00
Circus and Mummery
On mummery as a pedagogical tool with children aged 6-9 Children's Home Egelundshuset

11.30
Videofilm on a sidestreet project.
A Community and Unemployment Project Sidegaden

12.30
Theatre/Performance
Democracy Show
Involving youngsters in club work Ungdomsringen

14.00
Children Labour Theatre. UFO the international youth caravane

16.00
Workshop
Youth Cities for Streetchildren and youngsters in Large Cities
Presentation of the concept of youth cities, as developed in Askovgård-
en, Copenhagen and under implementation in St.Petersborg and Vyborg,
Russia and Caracas, Venezuela
Valentina Pavlovskaya, Russia
Tito Escobar, Venezuela
Per Hensen, Settlement Askovgård-
en
Russian and Spanish

18.45
Explosive Colored Music Experience
3 groups "Stale Fish Grind", "8 kente børnesange" and "Freak out", and videofilms
Det gule pakhus a place for drop-out youngsters in Horsens.

20.30
Percussion and song
Fight and Feast and Finding an Angel
Youngsters from Portugal, Denmark and Zimbabwe
Opgang 2, Ministry of Culture and Ungdomsringen

Sunday March 5th.

10.00
Videofilm
Can You Feel a Colour
About Danish and Italian Institutional Pedagogy
BUPL

11.00
Videoactive Children and Youngsters
Video and TV as tool and medium,

in a pedagogical, social and cultural perspective.

Exemplified with videofilms made by children and youngsters, with discussion.

Vesterbro videoworkshop, Vesterbro local TV and Roundabout "Aro-
und Nørrebro Park".

12.00
Theatre
How to Survive From Now On With Opgang 2. Suicide among youngsters.
Ministry of Culture and Ungdoms-
ringen

13.00
Workshop
Life in the Street among Children and Youngsters
Volmer do Nascimento, chrm. of the Brazilian streetchildren movement
Søren Magnussen, Sjakket, Copen-
hagen
Døgnkontakten, Socialpædagoger-
nes Landsforbund and Sjakket.

15.00
Early Childhood in Ghana
Presentation of a national and decen-
tralized education program
BUPL, Unicef, Ghana Educational
Service, Ghana
National Association

16.00
Sørensen Mummies and Kæphøj
Circus
Performance by Sørensen mummies and videofilm on Kæphøj Circus.
Circus and mummery as a pedagogical method in social and cultural work with children and youngsters within and especially without official structures.
Presentation and discussion
BUPL and Ungdomsringen

19.00
Room for Everyone
Vesterbro Ungdomsgård with choir and orchestra
Ministry of Culture and Ungdoms-
ringen

20.30
Workshop
The Situation of Biological Parents When Children Are Taken Into Care
Jens Peter Nielsen, chrm. FBU
Per Guldborg, Association "Tekst og Billeder"
Socialpædagogerne Landsforbund and Forældrelandsforeningen FBU

Monday March 6th.

10 11.30
Workshop
Parents Under Pressure
Mentally Retarded Parents
Jytte Faureholm, lecturer in psychol-
ogy

11.30
Psychiatry from a User's Perspective
Christian Bonde and Kaare Knæk





- 12.00
Social Responsibility at Work
Presentation of the project
Benny Jørgensen, Marianne Egedal, Bitten
Kristiansen and a number of tradeunion leaders
SiD, Helsingør, Socialpolitisk Forening and Den sociale kandidatuddannelse
- 13.00
Videofilm
In the Flat Next Door
Reportage on the living conditions of the mentally ill.
- 15.00 18.00
Living Conditions of the Mentally Ill in a Global Perspective
Debating panel:
Kaja Neumann, Landsforeningen PÅrørende til sindslidende
Finn Jørgensen, Det grønne netværk
Benny Lihme, Social Kritik
Erik Adolph, Askovgård
Ingerlise Keiding, Fountain House
Alan Fergusson, Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health
John McNeill, Edinburgh University Settlement
Chairman: Per Hensen, Askovgård
Project Offside, Askovgård
Fountain House, Landsforeningen pÅrørende til sindslidende, Vesterbroprojektet
- 18.00
Orchester Fountain House
- 19 20
Cabaret
I Wanna Get Work From You
org. Kofoeds Skole
- 20.00 21.00
There is no progress if it does not come from everyone and is not for everyone,
Georg Dahlerup
Shall we educate people to follow in the neoliberalists' footsteps? Martin Winther
Unemployment, Christian Adamson, Den humanistiske Bevægelse
- Tuesday March 7th.**
- 9.00 10.00
What is happening at the Summit Meeting
Briefing by delegates from International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Social Workers, European Network of Unemployed, European Antipoverty Network
- 10.00 11.00
Workshop
Social Team Work with Relatives living in Families with Alcohol Problems
Hanne Nielsen, Askovgård, together with collaborators
- 11.00 16.00
4 workshops
Social Work with Ethnic Minorities
Marianne Skytte and Morten Ejrnæs lecturers, Den Sociale Højskole,
- Copenhagen
- The Danish Welfare Model
Jørgen Bent Hansen
lecturer, Den Sociale Højskole, Copenhagen
- Spiritual Poverty in the Welfare State
lecturer Margaretha David
arr. De sociale Højskoler
- 16.00
Choir from Greenland Mik Kofoed Skole
- 17.00
Videofilm and Lecture
With the Full Use of Their Senses
Handicapped and deaf children in Mozambique
Anne Preisler Sommer, Ibis
- 18.00
The Right to One's Own Culture
Drumdance from Greenland
Kasaluk Qavigaq
- Work in Greenlanders' House
Grønlandernes Hus
- 19.00
Poems by Mustafa Arnatovic, exiled artist of the year
My life in Denmark, by a Bosnian in exile
Humanist Moment by Mette Staalgaard
Presentation of humanist community project in Christianshavn, by Elin Bonnesen
Acoustic guitar by Irhad Sehovic with own compositions
Den humanistiske Bevægelse
- Wednesday March 8th.**
- 9.00 10.00
What Is Happening at the Summit Meeting
Briefing by delegates from the International Council on Social Welfare, the International Federation of Social Workers, the European Network of Unemployed, European Antipoverty Network
- 10.00
Workshop
Social Integration of Brain Damaged adults
Presentation of social methods and discussion, by Ulla Bredahl, Askovgård, together with collaborators
- 11.00
Social Work in Slums
Fernando Cajas, delegate from the inhabitants of Poblacion Santa Elena and Eugenio Duran Diaz from Metropolitana de poblaciones, Chile
Hanne Reintoft, Mødrehjælpen Spanish
- 13.00
OneMan Show on Drug Addiction
Outside Inside
with Søren Marcussen and Carsten Mejndor
Performed in Danish
- Workshop with participation of 6 exaddicts
- 15.00
Theatre
How to Go on Living From Now On With Opgang 2. Suicide among youngsters
Ministry of Culture and Ungdomsringen
Performed in English
- 16.00
Seminar
Rehabilitation as Prevention Against Becoming Outcast
Participants from Denmark and Chile
Ergoterapeutsforeningen
- 18.00
Lecture with slides
The Old People Can Kill Serpents
Discussion on the situation of elderly people in Denmark and in Mozambique. Examples from Thorupgård and Apoio Velhice by Maria Justiniano, together with residents from thorupgård
Omsorgsorganisationernes Samvirke in collaboration with Ibis
- Thursday March 9th.**
- 9.00
What is Happening at the Summit Meeting
Briefing by delegates from International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Social Workers, European network of Unemployed, European Antipoverty Network
- 10.00
Opening of Day of the Handicapped with samba parade
- 10.15
Ishøj Aktivitetscenter
- 11.00
Film
The Strange People from Gram
Presentation of preparation work for touring theatre performance
Musikværksted, Gram
- 11.20
Play and Motion
Klub Himmelblå
- 12.00
A Working Day for Autists
workshop Espevangen
- 12.30
Turkish belly dancing
Home "Længen"
Circus Performance
Home "Hulegård"
- 13.30
Communication
Pædagogisk psykologisk rådgivning, Hinnerup
- 14.00
Film and Workshop
Reflections About Ethics
Socialpædagogernes Landsorganisation
- 15.00
Samba Parade
- 15.15
Poems from Speakers Corner
- 15.30
Short film
Gislaved
THuset
- 16.00
Away from Care and Out in Real Life by Lisbeth Jensen, Chairman, Udviklingshæmmedes Landsforbund
- 16.30
Choir
Klub Vest
- 17.00 18.00
Speakers Corner
- 18.00
Folk dance and Pub Music
Home "Hulegård"
- 19.00
Rock Music
Nødebogård
- Friday March 10th.**
- 9.00
What is happening at the Summit Meeting
Briefing by delegates from International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Social Workers, European network of Unemployed, European Antipoverty Network
- 10.00
Workshop
Social Development and Fight Against Pollution by Carsten Andersen and Henning Hansen
The Danish Council on Social Welfare and Centre for Alternative Social Analysis
- 11.30
Discussion
Solutions to Unemployment by John Andersen Cid, Hans Erik Rasmussen, busdriver and Vibeke Lassen
Den alternative Velfærdskommission and Brugernes Socialkommission
- 13.00
Hobsen's Choice
a critical review of the integration of ethnic minorities within a Danish context by Gordon Vincenti, den sociale højskole, århus
- 14.00 16.00
Meet the Social Workers who present their work with social problems
Henning Hansen, Centre for Alternative Social Analysis
Peter Abrahamson, University of Roskilde
Iver Hornemann Møller, Centre for Studies of Social Integration and Differentiation
Niels Ploug and Jon Finsen, Institute of Social Research
- 16.00 18.00
Voluntary Work in Denmark
Inger Koch Nielsen, Ulla Habermann and Carsten Andersen
Institute of Social Research, The Danish Volunteer Centre and The Danish Council on Social Welfare.
- 18.00
- Videofilm
Hjulmagerstien
- 19.30 20.30
Declaration on Global Problems by Georg Dahlerup
With Welfare, by Mette Aabo
Action Plan for a Humanist Community, Den humanistiske bevægelse
- Saturday March 11th.**
- 9.00 12
ENU meet
European Network of Unemployed
- 12.00
Mombasa Music
- Prospects of a New world Reflections after a Summit Meeting
Writer Vagn Lundbye
- 13.00 18.00
seminar
Global Ressources Global Challenges
Condition of Social Work in the Developing Countries
Evelyn BaliaisSerrano, Phillipins, IFSW, Human Rights Commissionnar in Asia
Nigel Hall, Zimbabwe, IFSW, African Area.
Panel:
Max Schröder, Northern jutland
Ellis Enwall, Chairman IFSW
Tom Johannesen, Deputy Chairman IFSW
Dansk Socialrådgiverforening and International Federation of Social workers.

NGO NEWS



Welcome to Holmen

Opening. In the next 10 days, world history will be written in Copenhagen. Never before have representatives from organisations, government officials and leaders of governments from so many countries in the world been assembled to find solutions to how we together can solve three growing global problems: poverty, unemployment and social disenfranchisement.

One of the criteria for success is that the meeting can be held at all. The world is not going to be saved in Copenhagen. Oppression, abuse of power and the stupidity of mankind will still be a part of everyday life, when the Social Summit and the NGO Forum end. But the world will not be the same after March 12th. Social development is now and will in the future be an item on the global agenda, when the leaders of governments around the world have signed the declaration and the programme of action, that are the official results of the summit.

What is NGO?

The three letters N-G-O cover one of the most important driving forces in historical development today and probably tomorrow.

Around the world, farmer's movements, tenant's movements, human rights organisations and labour unions



Welcome to the Global Village. This is where more than 200 NGO's exhibit.

Photo: Annika Martins

have the same experience: People working together to exert pressure is essential to the development of history. "Don't hear, don't see" seems to be the solution of many governments to local, national and global problems. But NGO's are the local, national and global ears and eyes. We raise our voices to tell about poverty in all of the corners of the globe.

It is these voices that will be heard in the next 10 days during the NGO Forum '95 in Copenhagen. At the NGO Forum, you can listen to a different version of social reality than in the speeches of the government officials and heads of State at the Summit in the Bella Centre.

The NGO's gathered for the NGO Forum '95 will be agreed on the fact that the summit should not be a step backwards disguised as progress and a promise of a better future for a billion people who live in extreme poverty.

Social problems among the impoverished in the south and the relatively impoverished and disenfranchised in the north can seem incomparable. But the point of departure and the goal are the same: To ensure a dignified existence for every human being.

Welcome to Denmark. Welcome to Copenhagen. Welcome to NGO Forum '95.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

The world meets at Holmen

By Koen Greven

Welcome. The sound of Colombian salsa can be heard far from the ferry Kronborg.

Nigerians, Dutch and Brazilians dance to it. In the meantime, in the Global Village, sustainable agriculture and development in Nepal is discussed. The world is alive in old warehouses and boats at the NGO Forum '95 in Holmen.

The more than 2000 organisations which are participating in the Forum have their meetings, conferences and cultural events all over the naval base. The expected 10.000 visitors daily can make use of the InfoGuides and the maps to find their way around.

The Global Village - the Danish navy used the building to repair torpedo boats - is the place where the major events of the Forum will take place. "Since the first week of January a hundred people have worked every day to repair the building for the

Forum. We started completely from scratch and are now ready to receive thousands of visitors", says Thomas Jørgensen who is in charge of the building. The conference room in the back, which can hold almost 1500 people, looks like a small stadium. It is used by the keynote speakers to give their daily briefings and for large events for which a large number of people are expected. Colours, flavours and sounds of world come to you when you enter the hall. More than 200 NGO's are showing their countries, ideas and opinions at their exhibition stands. "The original plan was to place all the exhibition stands in the Global Village. But when it became clear that more NGO's asked for room than expected, the building Steelworks was opened for the



The Ferry Kronborg, where many cultural events will take place in the afternoons and evenings.

Photo: Annika Martins

Forum", explains Jørgensen.

The preparation of Steelworks began only two weeks before the Forum. In no time, 70 big stands and 120 small table stands were made ready for the different NGO's. While people are watching the folkloristic performances they can taste the world in the Calvery restaurant. The large buffet offers eight different menus every day. The developments of the UN Summit can be followed on televisions in the hall.

In the south-west of Holmen the ferry Kronborg is located. It was not possible to place it next to the conference centre as planned, because the waterlevel was too low. The ferry, which used to sail between Denmark and Sweden, has a meeting room for 350 people and a small one for 50. Both are used for seminars and workshops. In the evening, parties and concerts will take place on the ship. For

some of the arrangements, free tickets must be picked up on the same day.

The conference centre is placed in a 300 year old building. On the second floor meetings are taking place. Newspapers in all kind of languages can be bought on the first floor next to the booking centre and the tourist centre. Ten meters further you can communicate with the world on Internet in the APC centre. The biggest NGO Forum ever takes place at Holmen. 1200 activities are planned in this Smørgasbord of Social Issues. While the politicians take the political decisions at the Bella Centre, the colours and the flavours are at Holmen. To keep yourself informed on new activities the Information Centre, the Radio Denmark Summit Channel and the daily conference papers can be used. Shuttle buses and boats can be used to meet the world at Holmen.



NGO's want the summit to take decisive steps

Expectations. Goals and aims differ greatly. Some fear that the NGO Forum will be used to legitimize governments agendas.

Just before the opening of the NGO Forum '95, an intricate and complex picture of what to expect from the 1500 events of the coming ten days is shaped by the manifold visions of the participants. Most NGO's see the NGO Forum as the best way to make profound connections and share experiences.

A handful of the more than 2,400 NGO's coming to Copenhagen told TerraViva NGO news, just before leaving their countries, that they are convinced that NGO's have a decisive role to play in defining and elaborating plans of action for social development. "The NGO Forum '95 should act as a powerful lobby to bring the summit to take decisive steps," says Wankpo Eustache, co-ordinator at CBDIBA (Centre BÉninois pour le Développement des Initiatives à la Base) from the Republic of Benin. CBDIBA promotes women's organizations and activities

By Jens Jørgen Madsen

for the improvement of their

living and working conditions.

Director at LRRC (Legal Research and Resource Center for Human Rights) in Cairo, Amir Salem, pronounces:

"Our hope is to share experiences and visions with other people, and in the process strengthen our own society in Egypt and in the Arab World. We hope to influence opinion makers globally, regionally and nationally - especially in regard to poverty and social disintegration from which the Third World suffers."

Evelyn Nacario-Castro, executive director at Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. in Cebu City, the Philippines:

"Most important for us about being at the Forum is networking and international solidarity. Moreover, gaining support from other NGO's on a very specific concern to us in Cebu City: the aspect of watershed protection and the sustainability of renewable and potable freshwater supplies."



Lobbying and making personal contacts is the main activity of the NGO's at Holmen.
Photo: Thomas Villars

The general feeling is that the outcome and effect of the NGO Forum '95 will not be seen immediately but should be judged by the long term effect.

"For us such Forums are opportunities to strengthen NGOs in Egypt, and to help raise awareness of their importance, hence moving a

few steps forward towards changing the law," says Amir Salem, LRRC.

To Luis Su-rez Salazar, director of Centro de Estudios sobre América in Havana, Cuba, taking part in the Forum is lobbying and influencing the various caucus meetings during the Forum are among the main chores.

Luis Su-rez Salazar is scepti-

cal about how the public will interpret the relationship between the NGO's and the UN's World Summit on Social Development.

From his personal experiences, he is afraid that the Summit will not permit an incorporation of the demands of the NGO's.

"If my personal experiences concerning interactions betw-

een NGO's and governments are valid to other NGO/government-relations, it means, that the bare presence of a massive number of NGO's at this summit will serve as an evident way to legitimize the agreements of a summit, which - if it continues as now - will give no concrete and practical answers to the principal demands and needs of our communities," says Luis Su-rez Salazar.

Wankpo Eustache from CBDIBA, Benin:

"We think that the co-operation of NGOs with governments should be encouraged because NGOs should not only act as lobby groups. They should take an active part in the definition of the policy of development of governments in a frank dialogue."

Evelyn Nacario-Castro from Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. sees the role of the NGO's as a contributor of ideas as a watchdog. NGO's must keep governments responsive to the needs of the greater majority and act as a careful collaborator in bringing about desired change.

Blackman Thomas meets Al Agami and Remeé

Dance night. The ferry Kronborg will be turned into a 'swing-boat' tonight, when Danish jazz-drummer Blackman Thomas joins up with rappers Remeé and Al Agami - a prince from Uganda living in Denmark. From 9 o'clock, their dynamic jazz-dance per-

formance will make the whole deck shake. Those who can still stand on their feet after that can jump back on the dance floor and be guided through the evening by DJ Soul Anders. Free tickets are available at Kronborg. There is room for 800 people.

Danish jazz-drummer Blackman Thomas (front), 3 with rappers Remeé and Al Agami



UFO Mobilizes international youth

By Peter te Lintel Hekkert

Youth. About 450 young people from all over the world are gathered in a pre-run of the NGO Forum. This joint festival, called SUM'it Up, took off on February 28th and will last until tomorrow. It was set up by UFO'95, which stands for International Youth Forum 1995. UFO wants to create a platform for exchange of ideas between socially engaged youngsters and take the themes of the Social Summit to the common man.

During SUM'it Up, people from Ghana, India, Bosnia, USA, Denmark and other countries are involved in workshops, resulting from twelve local projects being held across Denmark in the last two weeks. Some of the subjects are youth unemployment, social integration, homeless children, child labour and marginalization.

One of the main goals of

UFO is to show youth as a main active social resource. A mouthful, "But", argues spokesman Uffe Stolt Rasmussen, "it is important to make the politicians aware that they are standing too far away from the people they are actually making decisions for." Furthermore, the organization wants to draw the attention of ordinary citizens to the summit in a down to earth manner. Rasmussen: "Holding a summit is useless if the results do not come out to the public."

Today all SUM'it Up participants meet with the International Youth Consultation. Together they will put together a catalogue and a declaration concerning each social theme discussed at the youth forum. The declaration will be presented to the Social Summit at Bella Center and at the NGO Forum at Holmen.

CARE Australia accused Aid agency tried 'bribing with rice'

CARE Australia is facing allegations of deception, mis-handling of public funds and attempts to bribe Kenya's president with tonnes of rice meant for Rwandan refugees, reports IPS in Sydney.

Former employees, who made the allegations on national television this week, also accused CARE of overcharging the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other aid agencies that used its services in the former Yugoslavia. They also charge that CARE was unable to provide adequate supplies in Rwanda and Bosnia, that the agency's operations there were badly coordinated, and that the safety of staff overseas was being compromised.

CARE Australia — known for using media images of starving children to raise funds for its disaster relief efforts — has vehemently denied the charges, but the accusers are adamant.

Julian Fidge, a former employee of CARE Australia, claimed the aid agency had bribed Arap Moi with 10 tonnes of rice for his vote-buying fund in order to stay in the country independently of CARE International.

"The director of emergencies said to me, 'This is a bribe and it will be used to buy votes'," recalled Fidge. The rice was donated by Canberra school children for Rwandan refugees.

"It is an absolute blatant lie."

Migrants campaign

Calling for the recognition of immigrants' rights, a Portuguese human rights group, SOS-Racismo, has scheduled a week of anti-racism protest for late March, IPS Lisbon reports.

"Anti-Xenophobia and Anti-Racism Week", running from Mar. 18-26, is aimed at urging the authorities towards greater "openness in the legislation process."

The planned events, to highlight the plight of immigrants in the former colonial metropole, will be attended

By Suganthi Singarayar

CARE Australia spokesperson Suzy Clarke told IPS. "The rice was never intended to be used as a bribe to the president. Five to six tonnes of rice have been and are still being used to feed lost and orphaned children in Rwanda. The remainder is under lock and key in Kenya and will be used for Somali refugees in Kenya."

She said CARE Australia worked under the umbrella of CARE Kenya during the emergency situation, which is normal practice.

Clarke also denied Fidge's claims that CARE Australia had no evacuation plan for its staff in Zaire and had not provided basic services such as vaccinations for its staff on site.

"The security and health of our staff are paramount. They receive briefings before they leave the country. The allegation that there was no security plan in place is a blatant lie," she said. But Fidge pointed out that the security plan now in place is one that he wrote two months ago.

Authorities are currently conducting an audit into CARE's financial regulations and systems. The first audit was started in May 1992 following allegations of irregularities made by another former employee, and was completed in June 1993.

by Catholic church organisations, the Brazilian immigrants society, and associations of Portuguese-speaking Africans.

Most of the country's 250,000 immigrants are from the African states of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

The largest group — some 90,000 — are from Cape Verde, a West African archipelago whose population of 500,000 is equaled by the number living abroad.

EU choice for WTO chief advances

The end of the bid by former Mexican President Carlos Salinas to lead the World Trade Organisation slightly favours the prospects for the European Union's nominee, Renato Ruggiero of Italy, trade circles said to IPS in Geneva.

Salinas withdrew his candidacy Wednesday, a day after his brother was arrested, saying he was bowing out to end an impasse involving three candidates.

Key delegations were meeting informally Friday to discuss the Salinas withdrawal and the chances of the remaining candidates — Ruggiero and South Korea's Kim Chul-Su. That meeting was convened by WTO General Council Chairman, Ambassador Kesavapani of Singapore.

EU representatives did little to hide their glee after the announcement of Salinas' withdrawal and looked to the United States and other supporters of Salinas to switch to Ruggiero.

They were hopeful that Kim, the Korean candidate, possibly may also withdraw to ensure Ruggiero's consensus choice. But other sources said this scenario was by no means certain and the problem would not be resolved by the Geneva "power brokers".

The United States, they said, did not favour the 65-year-old Ruggiero, a former Italian Trade Minister, and the believed U.S. opposition to his candidacy had not softened despite the withdrawal of Salinas.

With the United States, and the Europeans, not openly in favour of the Asian candidate the possibility arises of new candidates being proposed.

A name mentioned by some Latin Americans is that of Uruguay's former foreign minister, Enrique Iglesias, now head of the Inter-American Development Bank. His economic outlook has been flexible enough to attract U.S. support.

Over forty million landmines planted

Brutal reminders of war in Africa

by Lewis Machipisa

Millions of land mines indiscriminately planted across Africa are holding up development plans and efforts to ensure peace throughout the continent.

"Long after the 'thump' and 'crack' of the exploding mines disappear, and troops are withdrawn, the mines remain in the ground as brutal reminders that successful peace-building and development are still beyond the horizon," says William Nhara, Coordinator on Conflict Prevention and Research for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Thousands of innocent civilians have died, or been maimed in countries as far apart as Somalia and Liberia, or from Angola to Rwanda, as warring factions continue to use land mines.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimates that of more than 120 million landmines laid in 62 countries throughout the world — more than one-third are in Africa.

In Angola, about 10 million landmines have still to be cleared. Sudan has about 1.3

million mines, Somalia more than one million and Eritrea about 500,000, according to ICRC estimates.

"Towns and villages are completely surrounded by mine fields, most of them unmarked. Farmland has been rendered unfit for cultivation and roads are impassable," says Rene Korsinik, head of the ICRC mission in Zimbabwe. Only last year, new minefields were still being laid in Angola, where a brutal civil war still lingers.

Angola

Mines have been placed around key points of the Angolan infrastructure, including major roads, power lines, airfields and power plants, the ICRC says.

A similar critical mine problem exists in Mozambique, also just emerging from a prolonged civil war. More than two million known landmines are mostly located along the border with Zimbabwe.

According to the United Nations, all major roads systems



War wounded in Mozambique:

2Maj Arkiv.

in Mozambique are blocked by uncleared land mines. The world body estimates that, as a result, one million acres of agricultural land in Zimbabwe can no longer be cultivated. This means that "countries that could very well feed their populations may not be able to do so because land will not be available for ploughing," noted South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Addressing a two-day conference on land mines, organised by the ICRC, Archbishop Tutu urged the international community to "categorically and unequivocally condemn

the indiscriminate use of land mines."

"Anti-personnel mines are excessively cruel, cause horrific injuries, and target unarmed innocent men, women and children," said Tutu in a passionate speech at the conference, attended by 14 African countries.

According to ICRC figures, more than 90 percent of landmine casualties are civilians. "In Africa, mines constitute real source of destruction. Anti-personnel mines are employed abundantly in internal conflicts," says Nhara.

Nigeria's literacy test



Nigeria, with assistance from the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), plans to raise the country's literacy level, from the present 50 percent, to 80 percent by the year 2000.

Umaru Aji, Executive Secretary of the Mass Literacy Commission for Adult Education said the programme would receive a grant of 609 million naira (about 27.6 million dollars) for a literacy mobilisation campaign throughout the nation.

"With this grant, five million Nigerians are expected to become literate by the year 2000," said Umaru Aji.

Aji said UNDP would contribute about eight million dollars while the federal, state and local governments would add nearly 20 million dollars to fund the five-year programme.

Babasola Chinsman, UNDP's new resident representati-

ve, has made the issue of improving the country's literacy rate a major priority.

He announced last week that UNDP had set aside 1.5 million dollars for literacy activities at the federal level and 6.52 million dollars for programme activities at the state and local government levels.

Under the programme, UNDP will focus on critical areas of need, including capacity assistance to institutions like the state ministries of education, state adult and non-formal education agencies and other governmental and non-governmental organisations at local government and community levels.

"UNDP also expects to assist state governments set up and run mass literacy committees in many wards and local government areas," Chinsman said. Nigeria has 6,972 wards in 589 local government areas.



New EU support

By Thalif Deen

The 15-member European Union (EU), in a dramatic turnaround, is moving towards a common position in support of the 20/20 aid concept touted as an answer to the shortage of resources facing both rich and poor nations.

An EU source told Terra Viva yesterday that a significant change in thinking had left only four out of 15 countries still casting doubts about a concept that calls for the reallocation of existing resources in favour of poverty alleviation and social development.

All four countries — Britain, Sweden, France and Finland — are expected to drop their reservations so that the EU can collectively support 20/20 by the time the programme of action is adopted by heads of state at the conclusion of the social summit on March 12.

Caroline Wildeman of the Netherlands-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) Novib said that since there was no hope of "new and additional resources" from donor nations, the international community had to look for innovative sources of funding.

The "20/20" proposal urges industrial nations to earmark at least 20 percent of their aid budgets — and developing countries 20 percent of their national budgets — on social development.

The proposal, which is being vigorously promoted by at least five U.N. agencies, is currently in square brackets in the summit's programme of action signifying the absence of consensus.

Wildeman told Terra Viva that most Western nations earmarked only about 10 percent of their aid budgets to social sectors in the developing world.

An additional 10 percent would make a world of difference for the more than one billion people living below the poverty line, she argues.

'The poor and weak and get less' African offers on debt and governance

by Remi Oyo and Kola Danisa

International Alliance of Women, said the elimination of poverty on the continent could only begin if its debts, estimated at more than 300 billion U.S. dollars, were cancelled.

"So long as the rich countries continue to enforce debt repayment, poverty will continue to stare Africans in the face," she argued.

But Molotsi also feels that African governments must implement declarations and decisions of global summits

African non-governmental organisations (NGOs) here for the Social Development Summit propose an easing of their countries' debts and better governance at home as the core ingredients in their recipe for Africa's salvation.

"We hope to influence the evolution of a new international economic order that will bring about a substantial reduction in the continent's foreign debts," Zambian women's rights advocate Prisca Molotsi told Terra Viva yesterday.

Molotsi, Vice President for Africa on the board of the

and conferences, an opinion shared by Senegal's Mazide Ndiaye.

"The governments are not as committed as they should be," charged Ndiaye, President of the Forum of African Voluntary Development Organisations, adding that this lethargy contributed to Africa's poor showing at international conferences.

"In my experience, the poor and weak nations get less from these kinds of meetings," he said.

Ozias Tungwarara, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe human rights organisation, Zimrights, is slightly more optimistic. He sees the conference as an opportunity for Africa "to seriously consider the question of poverty that besets the continent and also give a human face to the structural adjustment programmes."

Still, Tungwarara admits that much pessimism might dog the summit because of the lack of serious commitment by Africa's leaders to social development programmes.

Moreover, Africa is not as prepared as it should be for the conference, according to Ndiaye. "Most African nations do not have sufficient funds to send big delegations here and have not formulated a common strategy to pursue negotiations," he told Terra Viva. "Small delegations cannot be active in all negotiations and have no impact... each delegation appears isolated."

He thinks a joint strategy by African nations has a better chance of succeeding and is therefore organising a meeting of all African NGOs for this weekend. "We will try to get the information to all the NGOs represented at the conference," he said.

Another strategy being worked out by the Africans is a lobby group under the aegis of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.

"We plan to meet African leaders attending the summit to ensure that there is a follow-up action to the decisions arrived here," said Hassan Sumonu, Secretary-general of the organisation, to which all trade unions on the continent are affiliated.

"I hope this will be the last meeting to deal with such crucial issues," Sumonu added.

However, Olisa Agbakoba, chair of a Nigerian human rights group, the Civil Liberties Organisation, has little hope that the Summit will lead to a reordering of the world's wealth.

"I don't expect anything... this kind of jamboree is not going to find solutions to the issues on the agenda of this conference," Agbakoba said.

And although he agrees that the meeting will call attention to poverty all over the world, he does not see any hope in additional aid for poor countries in Africa "as long as the leaders remain corrupt."

Poverty summit begs for attention

What went wrong?

The world's rich countries say they have given 1.4 trillion dollars to poor countries in the past 35 years.

And yet, global poverty has spread, and the gap between the haves and the have nots in the North and South is growing.

What went wrong?

Firstly, 1.4 trillion dollars may sound like a lot of money, but it is a tiny fraction of what the world spent during the same period on weapons.

Also, the money is peanuts compared to the losses developing nations suffer due to international trade restrictions, depressed commodity prices for their exports, debt repayment and capital flight.

Then, a lot of that aid never really reached the poorest in the poor countries. Much of it went to subsidise exports and flowed back to donors, to pay salaries for the aid bureaucracy. The little that was left went into the pockets of developing country elites.

There has been a lot of soul-searching among donors and recipients about aid in the run-up to this month's World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen from Mar. 6-12.

Dubbed the Poverty Summit, the conference is being attended by 100 world leaders — mainly from poor countries. But although poverty lies at the root of the world's environment and population crisis, the agenda of the Copenhagen meeting has been virtually ignored by the international media.

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the Population Summit in Cairo last year provided headline-grabbing sound bites on climate change, abortion. Copenhagen, it seems, is just not sexy enough for the Western media.

Most coverage in the run-up to the Copenhagen conference cannot seem to go beyond poking fun at the price tag for the conference (25 million dollars) and facetious references to poverty being discussed in one of the world's most affluent cities.

What has been largely ignored is the spirited debate about aid, and the concerns of some of the world's poorest countries in the run-up to the Copenhagen conference.

Why has foreign aid not made a difference, or has it? How can aid be used more efficiently? Is the volume of aid to a country linked to economic growth?

A recent study in Bangladesh found that three-fourths of fore-

The final analysis
By Kunda Dixit

ign aid the country has received since independence 25 years ago went back to donors to pay for experts, consultants and equipment.

"Large numbers of people are supposed to benefit. But most often, it is the people who prepare and implement the 'aid projects' who benefit," says Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, which lends small amounts of money to poor women.

In 1992, 65 percent of all Canadian development assistance was spent in Canada, and 90 cents out of every dollar the Australian government 'gave' to poor countries went back to Australia.

Most donors aggregate their aid statistics, and although the total annual aid budget may run into millions of dollars the portion allocated to directly meet the basic health and education needs of the poorest is small.

Aid has also gone to strategic allies, former colonies and not necessarily to the most needy. The United Nations says 40 percent of the richest developing countries receive twice as much aid as the poorest 40 percent.

Aid fatigue, recession, competition for funds from emergency peacekeeping and relief have further shrunk aid levels.

Ironically, arguments similar to Yunus' about the misuse of aid is now being put forward by the new rightwing House in the United States as an excuse to terminate U.S. contributions to agencies like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

"The argument that despite masses of development aid there has been no improvement in living standards among recipients is belied by the performance of East Asian countries," writes Victor H Frank, former U.S. director at the Asian Development Bank in Manila.

"Of course, aid is not the main cause of their success, but that these countries received large sums of aid cannot be denied," he adds.

The formula that allowed East Asian countries to gallop ahead was foreign aid plus sound domestic economic management and good governance.

On the other hand, in poorer South Asian countries foreign aid now injects up to 80 percent of the annual budget allocation for development and has become an addiction. Without it, provision of even the existing meagre health and education services to the poorest would grind to a halt.

Most activists who have taken part in the preparatory meetings to the Copenhagen Summit say the conference should concentrate less on aid and more on issues like the need to resolve the debt crisis, reform structural adjustment and make the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund more accountable.



African NGO delegates arrive at the Forum:
Photo: Klaus Holsting

African NGOs stand as one

African non governmental organisations will hold a mini meeting this weekend in an attempt to thrash out a common stand, to be their input to the final resolution of the NGO forum.

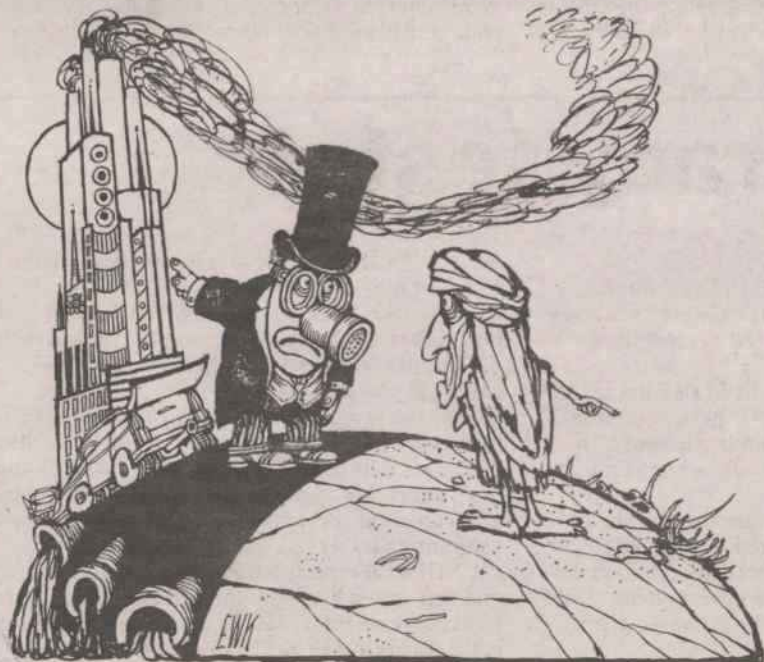
At a seminar on sustainable development, Friday, Toussaint Hinvi, of Benin, told Terra Viva he wasn't sure what the agenda would be since not all the delegates had arrived at the time of going to press but it was imperative the Africans speak with one voice he said.

Hinvi, a spokesman for the

NGO coalition for sustainable Development which groups 45 organisations based in the west African state, described the plight of Benin's poor during a fairly well attended meeting prior to the official opening of the NGO forum.

"We have endured the depressing effects of structural adjustment for too long," he said. "Now were seeking solutions through education, family health, sanitation and environmental awareness. We hope that by being here our problems will be considered

World view



EWERT KARLSSON, Sweden. C Cartoonists and Writers Syndicate.