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# THE EARTH Times

Thursday  
 MARCH 9, 1995

REGULARLY PUBLISHED  
 EVERY TWO WEEKS.  
 DISTRIBUTED  
 INTERNATIONALLY.

Published in cooperation with **Information** and **The New York Times** Fax Service

## US pledges \$100 million

### WOMEN

'The heart of the global agenda...'

BY JACK FREEMAN

"The problems faced by women everywhere lie at the heart of the global agenda," UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Wednesday at a ceremony held in the plenary hall of the World Summit for Social Development. "Until the rights and full potential of women are achieved," he added, "enduring solutions to the world's most serious social, economic and political problems cannot be achieved."

...

The Bella Centre was awash Wednesday with sheets of paper containing messages from a wide range of countries, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations and others, all linked to the themes of International Women's Day and the Summit.

A major announcement of the day came from the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), which launched a 180-day global campaign to focus attention on the countdown to the Beijing Women's Conference.

A WEDO statement said that, by taking part in the campaign, "the women aim to make their governments and the United Nations system more responsive to their demands for equality, economic and political empowerment, human rights and an end to such problems as poverty, environmental degradation, illiteracy, poor health and violence, with women and girls as the main victims."

James Gustave Speth, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said that the last century had "witnessed one the most sweeping revolutions of all time: hundreds

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BY ELIZABETH BRYANT

Though the amount of money she mentioned disappointed many people in her audience, US First Lady Hillary Clinton proffered one of the few financial promises made so far at the World Summit for Social Development.

Addressing a packed Plenary yesterday, Clinton said the US would allocate \$100 million over the next decade toward better education for poor women in the poorest of developing countries.

"No single factor contributes to the long-term health and prosperity of a developing nation more than investing in education for girls and women," Clinton said. "Governments making such investments are blessed by such things as lower infant mortality rates, improved child nutrition and greater participation of women in the modern labor force," she said.

In return, the US expects a 20 percent

But many at the Summit call Clinton's offer less than generous

Under the banner of 'Unguarded Future' increase in girls' primary school completion rates, or a 20 percent increase in adult female literacy, in areas targeted for assistance by the year 2005—goals that even Clinton said were "ambitious."

Clinton was one of several dozen dignitaries present yesterday to kick off a 180-day countdown to September's World Conference on Women in Beijing. The leaders also marked the 85th birthday of Women's Day, first launched in Copenhagen in 1910.

Many speakers dwelt on their countries' achievements in education, employment

and health that have taken place over the past 85 years. Many also folded women's issues into overall issues of inequality and poverty, the leitmotifs of the summit.

However, beneath the pomp and gloss, few gave specifics on policy goals or domestic shortcomings.

The \$100 million pledge by the US, small by international development standards, was intended to inspire similar pledges from wealthy countries. Still, the US action represents one of the few concrete promises of development aid made to date at this Summit. Earlier this week, the Danish government pledged to reduce debt repayment for several countries.

Many of those listening were disappointed, saying such assistance was too little and spread over too many countries.

"It's not a lot of money, but I think it's a start," said Elizabeth Mokotony of Rural Network, a non-governmental organization based in South Africa. "If other

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## NGOs, press gain access to delegates

BY DANIEL J. SHEPARD

Loud complaints yesterday by members of the Women's Caucus caused officials to allow representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) slightly greater access into key meetings where delegates are negotiating the text for the Summit documents.

There are three working groups working to iron out differences in the documents, and an additional group working on a new commitment on education.

Bella Abzug, co-chairperson of the Women's Environment and Development Organization made a vehement appeal to Main Committee Chairman Juan Somavia to open up the meetings of these groups. As a result, Somavia was able to get Summit Bureau approval to give NGOs slightly greater access to the meetings.

The Bureau consists of a number of delegates and Secretariat members who decide procedural and organizational questions.

As a result, NGOs will have full access to



ASHALI VARMA / THE EARTH TIMES

Activist Bella Abzug urges Main Committee Chairman Juan Somavia for more access.

the Main Committee meeting and also to the education commitment meeting. The leaders of the working groups are supposed to make themselves available for briefing

NGOs, and NGOs will be allowed in the working groups if accompanied by a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



News from **The New York Times** daily fax report**INTERNATIONAL DATELINES****Jobs a priority  
for French voters**

PARIS—Suddenly, the race to succeed President Francois Mitterrand this spring is wide open—a tight contest between a Socialist and two rival conservatives that is all about jobs.

With unemployment stuck at more than 12 percent despite economic recovery, all three main contenders agree that the way to solve France's long-term unemployment problem is by reducing the social security and health insurance premiums that French companies pay the Government for every worker they employ.

So conservative Prime Minister Eduoard Balladur, 65, his fellow neo-Gaullist, Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris, 62, and the Socialist candidate, Lionel Jospin, 57, are all promising to lower these charges to create inducements for companies to start hiring more workers.

**Warning on  
Barings**

LONDON—New details have emerged about the charges that Nicholas W. Leeson is likely to face if he is extradited to Singapore. A PR man, for the former Barings P.L.C. trader, Max Clifford, said Tuesday that "powerful people" could lose when Mr. Leeson tells all he knows about the downfall of the venerable British investment firm.

Clifford, who specializes in selling the stories of the notorious and the briefly famous to Britain's tabloids, told reporters here that Mr. Leeson was determined to clear his name and fears being sent back to Singapore from Germany, where he is in jail pending extradition.

**Post World War II low for dollar**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Trying to ride out an enormous selloff of the dollar on markets around the world, the Clinton Administration Tuesday watched with growing alarm but without taking action as the currency fell to post-World-War-II lows against the Japanese yen and the German mark.

Already battered by the relentless decline that began almost a month ago, the dollar lost an additional 2.4 percent of its value against the mark and 2.8 percent against the yen. The White House's decision to remain

silent this week in the face of the latest stunning fall was apparently made by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, who once managed the currency trading unit of Goldman, Sachs & Company, the New York investment firm.

Mr. Rubin's experience has made him particularly reluctant to intervene against the tide of the markets, officials familiar with his thinking said.

He was waiting, they said, for the steam to run out of the selloff before committing American funds to bolster the dollar.

**Terror witness admits many lies**

NEW YORK—The prosecution's most important witness in the terrorism trial of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and 10 others admitted Tuesday that he had lied for years about his background, boasting to Federal agents and friends that he was an intelligence officer in the Egyptian Army when in reality he had been a technical officer who never saw combat.

Throughout the trial, defense lawyers labeled Mr. Salem as an unreliable witness

who never stopped working for the Egyptian Government. Mr. Salem is considered such a critical witness because he infiltrated the circle of Islamic men now on trial and secretly recorded hours of conversations with them in May and June 1993. Those tapes, the prosecution says, represent some of the strongest evidence the prosecution says it has showing there was a conspiracy to wage a "war of urban terrorism" against the United States, led by Mr. Abdel Rahman.

**House approves litigation limit**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Voting largely along party lines, the House of Representatives Tuesday passed legislation designed to curtail sharply the increasing number of lawsuits brought in Federal courts.

The measure, the Attorneys Accountability Act, was swept along by a tide of anecdotes purporting to show that the American legal system is out of control, swamped with frivolous product-liability and personal-damage suits. The main effect of

the bill, which was approved 232 to 193, would be to encourage parties to settle lawsuits before trial by exposing them to the risk of paying some of the opponent's legal costs. It is one of three measures being considered this week by the House.

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**BRIEFS****Pataki Signs Death Penalty**

■ ALBANY—Gov. George E. Pataki fulfilled one of his central campaign vows Tuesday by signing a death penalty bill into law, making New York the 38th state with capital punishment.

Mr. Pataki used two pens that belonged to slain police officers in a bill-signing ceremony that had all the choreographed flourish of one of his stump events. The relatives of seven murder victims, most of them slain police officers, joined dozens of lawmakers and police union officials to watch the Republican Governor end an 18-year battle to return the death penalty to New York State.

**UN Offers Croatia Changes**

■ ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—The United Nations is offering to change its peacekeeping mission in Croatia to keep thousands of troops in place and avert a second Serb-Croat war, UN officials say. The changes might appease Croatia's government, which ordered the 12,000 peacekeepers out by March 31, but it's unlikely the rebel Serbs who hold nearly a third of the republic's territory will agree.

**UN Official Killed in Algiers**

■ UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Gunmen killed a United Nations official in Algeria's capital Tuesday after he resisted their attempt to hijack his car. The victim, Oussini Lahrache, an Algerian who was deputy head of the UN information center in Algiers, was shot on his way to work in the morning, said UN spokesman Joe Sills.

The two assailants escaped, and there was no immediate word on their identity or whether they were caught, Mr. Sills said. It was unclear whether the killing was part of the violent anti-government campaign by Islamic militants extremists in Algeria or a common crime, he said.

**RICHARD F. SHEPARD****Rural women of Africa**

Women from the rural areas of Africa, where 80 percent of the continent's population still lives, went to town in Copenhagen yesterday. It was the first of three days during which they plan to call attention to their unique problems.

Today, five women from rural regions in various parts of Africa, including Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia will tell their own stories of their own lives, a more eloquent testimony than all the documents that fill press offices.

The organization that is putting together a series of such workshops is the Network of African Rural Women Association, in UN-ese, NARWA.

"We are a group of 38 NGOs from 20 African countries," said Litha Musyimi Ogana, executive director of Family Life Promotion & Services, based in her native Kenya. "We formed our network after Rio because we should share and voice our experience at the grass roots, the indigenous, level."

**DOWN  
TO  
EARTH**

Ogana, who came to her NGO work with a background in management and finance and a stint in Kenya's Ministry of Finance, said that while African women share many problems, they also have many differences. One might expect that on a huge continent.

"We believe that African women have great potential, that they are hard-working and should not be poor. They can do much work in food production and food processing and weaving, for instance, occupations that require skills but are not high-tech."

The differences among the various women in the population of Africa are, like in many other places, rooted in economics, politics and social strata.

"Speaking generally, in the way of economics, West African women are more into commercial trade than other women. They established a credit system before the banks came. With food, they process it, market it and they generally don't buy Western food."

Ogana feels that rural folk fare better

**Many regions and  
different problems  
prompt an exchange  
of talent and skills**

than their city counterparts. "In East Africa, and I'm speaking about Kenya too, women are farming. They get up every morning and raise coffee, tea, many other things. In North Africa, where Islam prevails, I don't know how far women have come in the economy."

One of the main objectives of NARWA, Ogana said, will be to sponsor exchange programs among the women of Africa.

"We would like women of South Africa to meet with the women of West Africa, and learn about farming, and weaving, whatever one region can teach another. We in East Africa are very good at organizing."

Ogana thinks it is possible for good to come out of the Summit.

"NGOs are the only people who can make sure that governments don't keep their decisions on the shelf after they have made them. That's what we did with the Cairo document. We kept right on asking about it at home."

# 20/20 compromise disappoints many as negotiations wrap up

BY DANIEL J. SHEPARD

The Main Committee of the World Summit for Social Development was planning to work late into the night Wednesday to complete work on the conference documents, but the leaders of the working groups reported during the evening that progress has been made in their negotiations.

Malaysian Ambassador Razali Ismail reported that agreement had been reached on the 20/20 proposal, a compromise version that merely allows countries that wish to use the formula to go ahead and use it.

"The good news is that we have formulation on 20/20 for those

whowant it," Razali said, adding that "If you are an original pioneer of the concept, you will not be happy." He said that on one level, the notion was not opposed by anyone, but that some countries had reservations about the text because it does not call for new and additional resources, and also because it could lead to conditionalities in giving aid.

The 20/20 concept calls for donor countries to target at least 20 percent of their aid toward social programs, and recipient countries to spend at least 20 percent of their national budgets on social programs.

Razali said substantial progress was being made on the question of debt cancellation, and that the

group was looking at multilateral debt as well as bilateral.

Razali said he saw no indication that any new resources would be offered.

Ambassador Richard Butler, who is heading a working group dealing with the Declaration and questions of human rights, reported "good progress," but that the group had gotten hung up on several core issues dealing with national sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability, and non-interference in the affairs of other countries. He said that although 92 percent of the language in the documents had been approved at the last PrepCom, but 40 percent of the toughest issues remained.

He said one reason offered for

the extraordinary amount of time spent on sovereignty was that "while it is true that some states need help to improve standards of social development, if that help comes from outside, it must be given with respect and must not be an attack on a country's culture or traditions." He emphasized that it was not a "small issue."

Failure to reach agreements on these issues, he said, could lead to two unacceptable outcomes for the Summit—either that aid is not given or that there will be an attack on a nation's culture.

Butler said that a balanced outcome must be found because the result will have a "wider bearing" on the future of the UN system.

## HERE AND THERE

# It's a new world for NGOs

BY RICHARD F. SHEPARD

More often than not, the attendance at these United Nations world gatherings take on the flavor of a reunion at a summer camp. The faces are familiar and the hellos are laced with reminiscences of Cairo, of Rio, of Vienna, of Nairobi. Not so for the six-member Cambodian NGO delegation to Copenhagen.

None of them have ever before been to an international jamboree. Three of them have never been out of their country. Poor, devastated Cambodia. Their journey to Denmark was sponsored by the United Nations and donor agencies.

This is the situation outlined by one of the sextet, M.S. Shivakumar, who is not Cambodian but became immersed in its current history by way of student days in India.

"The 90 NGO's, international organizations, were the only instrument of foreign aid and information. Whatever came, came from the NGO's."

The Cambodian NGO delegation consists of one woman, five men. One is permanently disabled, crippled by polio because no serum was available during the embargo by outside nations.

"This is the first time they have an audience," said Shivakumar. "For the first two days they couldn't speak. They had never been out of Cambodia."

Shivakumar, who is a development analyst who has hung out his shingle in Pnom Penh, hammered out the first Cambodian NGO press release. For those who haven't seen it, it announces the group's premiere "Presentation and Press Briefing" at 7 P.M. today at the NGO Forum in Holmen, "C" Block (C,2).

# Disabled children dance for peace

BY JOHN R. G. STANLEY

They lead a small Filipino girl to the center of the board platform. She is small, frail, and her hands search in the air. She is blind. She looks scared, her

pain and despair.

The singer, Jaymee Castillo, is confident, as is Rico del Rosario, the guitarist. Pride and happiness marks the deaf dancers, the physically whole, but disadvantaged children, the tribal people, and all the other members of Earthsavers DREAMS Ensemble. They performed Wednesday at the NGO forum and will be in Brussels, Rome, Paris and Romania over the next month. These children were detoured from despair by Ms. Cecile Guidote Alvarez, who won the Philippine version of a Nobel prize for her success in providing children with opportunity.

DREAMS stands for Development, Rehabilitation, and Education through Arts, Media, and Science. The program integrates 110 different ethnic groups and uses teachers from all over the world.

"We let the children explore



JOHN STANLEY / THE EARTH TIMES

Socially integrated theater ensemble performs at NGO Forum

## A message of love and hope

mouth opens, and the room fills with strong, confident, beautiful melody. The sound resonates, blending with a blind boy's clean guitar strokes, bringing tears to the eyes of listeners as it tells the story of helpless migrant workers struggling to survive a polluted environment on unconscionable wages. Four deaf dancers flow into the background pantomiming the

their abilities by mixing handicapped children with normal kids. Parents notice a quantum leap in their children's development process," said Ms. Alvarez. The music is all original, composed by Ferdinand

Dimadura. Choreography is by Gigi Velarde David. The lyrics deal with social integration, poverty, environmental protection, and labor issues. Many in the audience found the performance moving—a message of love.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

**Music & Menus**

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The following music venues and restaurants boast good music and a fine kitchen. They have all planned special SUMMIT choices from the menu of the day to go with the music of the evening. Sit down and enjoy yourself in an ambiance of well-being, pleasure and delight.

Drinks not included in Music & Menus prices quoted below.

**Finn Zieglers hjørne**

**Finn Ziegler's Hjørne**  
Vodroffsvej 24. Tel: 31 24 54 54

Music & Menu: kr. 135,-

Music: Hans Verner Ottesen Duo (jazz), music begins at 9pm

Menu served 6pm-10pm



**Søvavillonen**

Gyldenløvesgade 24. Tel: 33 15 12 24

Music & Menu: kr. 188,-

Music: Cake Walking Jazzband (traditional jazz), music begins at 8:30pm

Menu served 5pm - 9.30pm

**VIN & ØLGOD**

**Vin & Ølgod**

Skindergade 45. Tel: 33 13 26 25

Music & Menu: kr. 249,- incl. one beer

Music: Mr. Voxen and his Vikings (sing-along), music begins at 9.30pm

Menu served 7pm - 12pm.



**Barcelona**

Fælledvej 21. Tel: 31 35 76 11

Music & Menu: kr. 155,-

Music: Aces of Acid (acid jazz), music begins at 9:30pm.

Menu served 5pm - 12pm



**Rust**

Guldbergsgade 8. Tel: 35 36 65 33

Music & Menu: kr. 149,-

Music: At Least Beauty (rock), music begins at 9:30pm

Menu served 6pm to 10pm

**Von Plessen**

RESTAURANT

**Von Plessen,**  
Hotel Phoenix

Bredgade 37. Tel: 33 95 94 00

Music & Menu: kr. 295,-

Music: Opera singer Brian Dan & guests (musical & Italian songs), music begins at 7:45pm

Menu served 6pm to 10pm

**imperial**  
HOTEL COPENHAGEN

**Atrium Restaurant**  
Hotel Imperial

Vester Farimagsgade 9. Tel: 33 12 80 00

Music & Menu: kr. 300,-

Music: Højring, Niels Jørgen Steen & Ginnan (mainstream/swing jazz), music begins at 7pm

Menu served till 11:30pm.

## MUSIC GUIDES

During the SUMMIT weeks in Copenhagen, experts in rock and jazz music are available for night-time guided tours of musical clubs in the capital.

Your guide acts as your genial and expert host for the evening. Each expert guides a number of guests (maximum 7), each guided tour visits a number of venues.

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Visit the Tourist Information desks at Bella Center - center hall  
NGO Forum-conference center C  
Bernstorffsgade 1 - facing the main station

## US pledges \$100 million

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

governments join in, it will make a difference."

Other speakers, representing countries ranging from Botswana to Russia, talked about strides countries have already made in reducing illiteracy and increasing health care. Botswanan Minister B.K. Temane noted that 87 percent of his country's children were enrolled in primary school. Theresa Moxey-Ingraham, the Bahamas health minister, spoke of a "new social ethic" in her country, where poor children were the center of development concerns.

Others tied women's issues to larger Summit concerns—poverty and debt—calling on developed nations to reduce structural adjustment payments, and extend the concept of growth to include a human as well as an economic dimension.

The acerbic remarks were largely left to Bella Abzug, of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Both dwelt on the hiring practices of international organizations, including the UN.

Noting that The World Bank and the World Trade Organizations were in the process of looking for new leaders, Abzug asked: "Do I dare ask if there is a gender-balanced short list, or is any woman at all being considered?"

For his part, Boutros-Ghali pointed to the inequality in his own organization, noting that most professional posts were still occupied by men.

Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the UN, similarly criticized the organization. "I have never worked in a more sexist and discriminatory agency in my life," Lewis said. "And it has not changed."

## Faxes phones and computers aid contacts between NGOs

BY PARAG KHANNA

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) was born in 1990 and, here at the Social Summit and NGO Forum, is doing wonders to facilitate communications between NGOs worldwide.

For the NGO representatives in Copenhagen and those who had to stay home, access to the eighteen member networks and 38 partner networks means instant ability to bring people all over the world together.

The APC, which was present in Rio, Cairo, and Vienna, is a non-profit organization that allows NGOs to have private electronic conferences any time over the network without any regulation. Not only does it allow NGOs to communicate with the thousands of others that are also on

APC, it functions in effect as a key to the wealth of research and information put on the network by NGOs themselves.

Bo Engborg, coordinator of NordNet in Sweden, points out that without APC, NGOs would have to use the Internet (if even possible in their location) as well as faxes, telephones, etc. "The APC puts everything in one place and unifies the means of communication," he says.

The many sponsors of the APC provide the computers and software, while the staff of approximately fifty volunteers helps to keep things moving. The APC provides access to the Internet and the World-Wide Web, and in the future, the plans call for geographic expansion. The goal, says Engborg, is to have many new NGOs on the APC so that access to its services becomes available world wide

## A SELF-PORTRAIT

# 'That's why I have to save our country and our women'

*Tamila Nasrin, a Bangladeshi woman, has written several books criticizing the treatment of women and of non-Muslims in her native Bangladesh. The most controversial is "Shame." In response to Nasrin's writings, fundamentalist groups have issued a statement demanding Nasrin's death.*

*Nasrin, who has gone into hiding in Sweden, seldom gives interviews. Suzanne Brøgger, a well-known Danish writer, was able to talk to her last November. The following are excerpts from that interview, published in Information:*

I feel that the fundamentalists are mad and evil and this gives me the strength to fight them. When they scream for my death, they give me strength.

And they don't stop with me.

After me, they will demand another woman's death. After me, they will stop another progressive voice. And in that way our country will be destroyed. That's why I have to save our country and our women from their claws.

The women are beginning to awaken. Women have started to work, educate themselves and become economically independent, and it is these women, I reach in my writings.

It is women, who have suffered under the system. Women, who have been tortured by their husbands. Now they begin to protest. And that's why the fundamentalists say that I make rebels out of women.

Every day I receive hundreds of letters from women who write that they need me, because they cannot express themselves. It is their lives I write about. These women want to break the chains of the system. Therefore I feel that I need to write. And that's the reason why I have been able to ignore the fundamentalists, who started their campaign against me as early as 1990.

But they couldn't stop my pen. It is wrong that I excite the mullahs and thereby strengthen their power. They were strong even before I began to write against the power of Islam.

In 1988, to please the mullahs, the government inserted Islamic law into the constitution, making it a state religion. Nobody had asked them to do so. But one day we woke up and were told that we had gotten a state religion.

It is important to understand that many people were killed and tortured. I didn't see how my father was tortured, because I was about to sleep in my bed. I just heard the sounds. And later I saw the scars. But we saw many bodies around us, many of my friends'



REUTERS

Nasrin.

fathers were dead, so it was a miracle in itself that my father survived.

When the Pakistani army arrived, my mother and all the women in the house escaped through a hole in the wall. And I keep this remembrance, that the women had to escape, while the men stayed. Otherwise, the women would have been taken away and raped. This happened to my aunt, my neighbors, and many others. Three million people died.

My father is proud of me. He has lost all his patients. He has lost his friends. They cannot visit him any longer, because they are afraid of the fundamentalists, who have destroyed his house, threatened his life, and demanded money from him for his safety. Actually, he has paid them in order to survive.

As a Muslim, my mother cannot see me at all. Nevertheless, she loves me against the law. My sister has lost her job. Because she is my sister, she cannot walk peacefully in the street.

Recently, my brother wanted to buy a small site, but when the salesman discovered that he was my brother, the site became twice as expensive.

—TRANSLATED BY KARIN BERGQUIST

## A day for the women

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of millions of women have been elevated from second-class citizens to full-fledged partners in society. More and more societies are finally recognizing women's contribution to human progress and are beginning to enable women to realize their full potential. For the first time, the goal of global gender equity seems within our reach."

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) issued a statement which pointed out that: "The gender gap in the Least Developed Countries is illustrated by the female-to-male primary and secondary school enrollment ratios of 79 percent and 58 percent, in 1991, respectively. These figures compare with 87 percent and 76 percent respectively in the developing world as a whole."

An statement by the World Health Organization noted, "Unemployment, marginalization and poverty are conditions that result in poorer health and are exacerbated by the discrimination girls and women face throughout their life. In virtually every society, women face discrimination in education, employment, as well as economic status, all of which contribute to a heightened vulnerability to disease."

Federico Mayor, director general of Unesco, said that the world needs to profit more "from women's unique visions and experiences. Their input is crucial to creating a culture of peace. For just as there can be no lasting peace without democracy, truly independent and self-governing nations cannot exist without equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by women and men."

Delegates, NGO's, and world citizens are invited to help plan the most important summit of them all...

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(to be held in 1997 or 1998)

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**Friday, March 10, 7-8:45 p.m.**

**NGO Forum '95 Holmen G-1-35**

Spread the word and bring your friends!

# Clout...womanpower on the world stage; writing checks and writing laws

"They got the point, and now all our laws read 'he/she.'"

BY SUSAN J. TOLCHIN

At long last and in every corner of the world, women have come to the realization that without political clout, their gains are meaningless. Whether that means sitting at the table at the IMF along with what Bella Abzug calls the "economic royals," or shaking up the local town councils of Uttar Pradesh, everything boils down to political power—wielding the pen that writes the checks and the laws.

You can start at any level. "The panchayati system in India requires that 30 percent of all elective seats go to women," related Dr. Amrita Dass, a historian who represents the worldwide YWCA and the Hunger Project of Uttar Pradesh. "It's a national law adopted by the states and applied at the local level." But the law is not enough, she added. Her group has undertaken the task of training all 80,000 women in the state of West Bengal to make sure they take advantage of their new rights of political participation.

In the new South Africa, 25 percent of all elected representatives must be women,

and the Speaker of the House of Parliament, Frene Ginwala, is a woman. And a feminist!

Ms. Ginwala talked Wednesday about forcing the issue of gender and language. "I protested the use of the word 'he' in our new constitution and in all the laws, and was told that when laws were interpreted, the word 'he' included 'she.'"

South Africa's male legislatures didn't reckon with Speaker Ginwala's political savvy. A lawyer by training and a member of the "technical committee" that writes the laws, she substituted "she's" throughout the next law for "he's."

"It was she, she, she," Ginwala recalled. "They got the point, and now all our laws read 'he/she.'"

Too bad women have not achieved much clout in the new Russian Republic. It was the women, Ginwala pointed out, who "marched into Chechnya to say enough is enough, and tried to bring their sons home."

At a major panel on the UN's commitment to women, much of the air time was filled with the subject of increasing the number of women in professional positions in



ASHALI VARMA / THE EARTH TIMES

(l to r) Speth, Sadik and Dowdswell among others on panel.

the UN bureaucracy. In UNICEF, according to Acting Director Sir Richard Jolly, the number is 40 percent, up from 25 percent in 1984, with a much higher proportion in the agency's field offices. James Gustave Speth, administrator of UNDP, admitted his agency had a long way to go, although he said he had managed to increase the number of professional women to 22 percent, up from 16 percent a year ago. He had also implemented new rules saying 70 percent of new recruits and 50 percent of all promotions have to be women.

Not surprisingly, the best record was held by an agency headed by a woman, Dr. Nafis Sadik of

UNFPA. "For me, every day is Women's Day," she said. In her agency, 57 percent of the decision-making jobs are held by women.

The numbers game is anathema in the US, as well as many other donor nations, because numbers give life to verbal commitments. Ironically, critics in the US—where civil rights laws and regulations are now under siege—call such numbers "quotas," although numbers are routinely accepted for "worthier" goals, such as curbing inflation and reducing unemployment.

Numbers force accountability, or at least a semblance of it. Gertrude Mongella, secretary general of the Beijing Conference, put it: "Who is going to review the

laws? Who is going to provide the resources to educate girls? And exactly what actions are going to be taken?"

"We're trying to negotiate a new relationship between men and women," she said, touching on another important and controversial sub-theme of the women's agenda. No one knows quite what form that will take, especially given the sensitivities and differences among the disparate cultures.

"To his credit, Richard Jolly was the only one who brought that subject up," said Dr. Celia Weisman, a professor of social work from Yeshiva University, who is here representing the International Federation of Social Workers. Jolly talked about how Unicef, in conjunction with the government of Zimbabwe, prepared a set of textbooks that "introduced concepts of mutual respect between the sexes."

Women's Day infused the conference with an atmosphere of elation and jubilation. A group of six Tunisian women delegates stood in the lobby offering their sisters candied dates from their country, while many other women—their garments festooned with yellow badges—approached total strangers to proclaim their solidarity.

## Painting a shirt for world development

BY ADAM ROGERS

A group of artists and entrepreneurs have found a unique way of communicating the message of social development—by getting their shirts dirty.

They claim to be making the largest t-shirt in the world, big



Creating the world's largest T-shirt.

enough for a dinosaur to wear comfortably.

The T-shirt, made entirely of recycled materials, was recently brought from Hollywood to Copenhagen by the Blue Star Foundation, of Frankfurt, Germany.

Once the giant shirt arrived in Denmark, it was painted by 20 international students, all using their hands and feet and working under the guidance of German performance artist Marcus Tollman. The giant garment is now hanging on display at the Illum, a shopping center in downtown Copenhagen.

Thousands of normal-sized shirts also have been painted by youth around the world with messages of solidarity with the visions of the World Summit, and are hanging in various locations around the city.

The group is organizing a rally on Saturday, March 11 at 5 PM, when 2,000 people will gather to hold up blue lights as an expression of solidarity with the principles of the Summit. Several delegations, dignitaries, local celebrities and members of the community of Copenhagen will participate.

## Women's issues rule the day

Press reflects on women and Summit

BY VIR SINGH

As scores of colorfully dressed women gave out yellow buttons and ribbons to mark International Women's Day, their journalist counterparts thumbed newspapers and transcripts, trying to sketch the day's story.

Today's bombardment of press releases was dominated by women's issues, causing women in the press room to reflect on how they fit in with the Social Summit's goals. "I hadn't thought of women as a minority," said Eda Chavez, a Mexican journalist based in Paris. Her view changed when she realized that a majority of the world's poor are women and that women working at home are not included in calculations of economic output.

"They don't get the benefits," Chavez said, meaning women are not considered to be supporting the economy. "Women work to feed men who support the economy. Isn't it obvious?"

A few rows down, two reporters from the Copenhagen daily "Dagsbladet Information" disagreed about the future of the women's movement in their

'...only one-third of seats in parliament.'

country. Charlotte Aagard Larsen believes that women's movements in the West have achieved enough for women. She says women now have legal rights that they can claim individually, so there is no future role for a women's movement in industrialized countries, at least not in the West.

"But we still have only one-third of seats in the Parliament," said her colleague Pia Fris Jensen who said Danish women's groups have helped citizens secure family and educational leave as well as the right to "sabbatical"—occasionally living on the dole.

On Tuesday, Larsen and Jensen interviewed Bella Abzug, co-chairperson of the Women's Caucus. Although they agree with much of the Caucus's message, they "don't think that women are all good and men are all bad."

"I don't want to see the Social

Summit only from a woman's point of view," said Fabia Midman, a freelance journalist from Sweden. "They are part of it but not all of it."

In "traditional societies," Midman said, women are indeed "more affected." But in some societies, especially the Nordic countries, men are more affected by "joblessness" as they, much more than women, identify themselves with their jobs, she said.

Poverty, not just women, must be emphasized, said Ana Maria Emaides, who sees evidence of the former all around her while writing in her native Argentina.

### The Copenhagen Culture Card

Enclosed in the Welcome Pack, the Culture Card provides free entry for delegates to the UN Summit for Social Development and the NGO Forum as well as entry into Good Evening Copenhagen, a wide-ranging cultural event on March 10, Tivoli Gardens on March 10 and 11, and into a number of museums and guided tours.

## EXCERPTS

It is important  
that this progress  
be maintained

The following is excerpted from the address delivered by Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UN Population Fund, before the plenary of the World Summit for Social Development.

As Secretary General of the International Conference on Population and Development, I am proud to be able to speak to you on International Women's Day. The Cairo Conference was a landmark meeting for many reasons: It was the most publicized conference on development in United Nations history; it was somewhat controversial; but what made the Conference a landmark for women was its historic progress on integrating the concerns of women into the mainstream of development thinking and action. At Cairo the concerns of women became the concern of the world.

One of the major successes of the ICPD was consensus on a Programme of Action with a very strong emphasis on gender and equality. I am delighted to see that in Commitment 5 and in the draft Programme of Action generally, this Summit has incorporated many of the goals and elements from the ICPD Programme of Action.

It is important that this progress be maintained. Investing in people, in broadening their opportunities and enabling them to realize their potential as human beings—that is the key to sustained economic growth and sustainable development, as well as to balanced, sustainable population growth. Both the ICPD Programme of Action and the draft Programme of Action for this Summit recognize the absolute necessity and urgency of empowering women as an important end in itself, as well as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone. Without the full and equal participation of women in all its aspects, there can be no sustainable human development.

I would like to emphasize however that the goal of empowerment cannot be achieved without attention to the basic circumstances of women's lives. An essential component of empowerment is the right of all people, couples and individuals alike, to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and the means to do so. The right to reproductive health is a principle of the first



importance, not only for women, but for all people and all nations. I urge the nations present at this Summit to endorse in this area the language you agreed to in Cairo, as an essential contribution to social development.

At Cairo, the international community reached agreement on significant new investments in the areas of reproductive health care and family planning services. Many countries have already indicated that they will increase their support for population and development programs in the near future.

These resources will be complemented by funding a wide variety of measures aimed at meeting the educational and health goals set at earlier conferences. It would be heartening to see progress at this Summit towards the 20/20 vision for commitment of resources to meet social development goals. Together with commitment to implementing Agenda 21, this would make a coherent statement of the international community's willingness and determination to end poverty, build social justice and work towards a sustainable future.

At Cairo the nations threw down a historic challenge in the field of social development. I hope this Summit will take up the gauntlet, not merely in the words of the Programme of Action, but in the hearts of everyone attending this meeting, and in your deeds in the future. Then we may all be proud to say that we were here on this International Women's Day.



## EDITORIAL

Sluggish Summit  
gets a needed  
shot in the arm

International Women's Day on Wednesday brought a rush of adrenaline to the World Summit for Social Development, a burst of enthusiasm and purpose that was all the more remarkable because of the torpor that had settled over the conference earlier in the week.

The reasons for this transformation were not hard to see. Most importantly, the subject under discussion was real people, not an abstraction. Before Wednesday the talk was all about "poverty" rather than poor people, about "unemployment" rather than people out of work. On Wednesday the talk was all about women, about their lives and their hopes, their problems and their aspirations. In short, it was about the real world rather than somebody's idea of Utopia.

Just as apparent were the energy and enthusiasm of the women's groups and their skill at framing their issues in a way that compels attention. In contrast to so many groups that have come to Copenhagen with a message to deliver, they know how to win friends and supporters instead of alienating people with shrillness.

So once again, as at Rio, at Vienna and at Cairo, the women's movement deserves a round of applause—and emulation.

But International Women's Day in Copenhagen also brought to mind one disquieting thought, and that is: How many more Women's Days must pass, how many more women's demonstrations must be held and manifestoes published, how many more declarations about women's empowerment must be inscribed into how many more UN documents before the women of our planet can enjoy all that is rightfully theirs?

## THE QUESTION / JOHN R. G. STANLEY

## How can Action Plan be implemented?



**THAIS CORRAL**  
Brazilian Delegate, Brazil

Commit to the 20/20 initiative. I agree with Juan Somavia, call a moratorium on conferences; give ourselves ten years for implementation. So little has been implemented and these issues are so urgent. We must touch the economic system, which is the source of the problems.



**OK BUN THOEUN**  
Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, Cambodia

People must recommend to all governments in the world that they make firm commitments. We will lobby our government to change its structure, to remove the landmines and reconstruct the country. Educate to open minds to other than traditional ways.



**BERNARDO SILVA LOAYZA**  
Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples Ashaninka people, Peru

I'm not sure this program will help. We need to get IDs so the army doesn't harass our people. Peru's Constitution grants us land ownership security. But instead, the government takes it away.



**ANNE MILLAR**  
Center for Urban Economic Development, United States

NGOs must be a unified force pressing for followup. We just met with Tim Wirth and Carol Lancaster of USAID, and asked for flexible, not cookie-cutter (that is, SAP), aid. Link global issues with domestic action.

## THE EARTH TIMES

PUBLISHED BY THE EARTH TIMES FOUNDATION  
DENMARK EDITIONS PRINTED AT DANSK AVISTRYK A/S  
Box 3363, Grand Central Stn, New York, NY 10163 • Tel: 212-297-0488;  
Fax: 212-297-0566; Internet: Earthtimes@aol.com; earthtimes@pipeline.com  
Available on America Online, Apple eWorld,  
The Daily Planet BBS, Earth Spirit Online, EcoNet,  
HRNet, OneNet and TogetherNet

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# NGOs make stand at Bella Centre

## Fast for debt cancellation, 20/20 proposal and poverty eradication

BY ELIZABETH BRYANT

Wangari Maathai has no problem with Danish food: it's the snail's pace of Summit decision-making that has driven her to quit eating.

On Wednesday, Maathai and some 50 other representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) began a hunger strike expected to end when the conference closes on Sunday.

Their high profile campaign—a handful of women sprawled in the Bella Center's main hall carrying posters—is intended to highlight issues the conference has failed to address adequately. Maathai said these are debt cancellation, greater spending on social services, eliminating discrimination against women, and participation of all members of society in the governing process.

Wearing a flowing green dress and a bright smile, Maathai has made more than the odd United Nations delegate squirm. An environmental and political activist in



ASHALI VARMA / THE EARTH TIMES

NGOs begin five-day fast on International Women's Day to highlight the plight of the one billion women, men and youth who go hungry every day.

her native Kenya, she has never been shy about protesting the lack of democracy and corruption in Africa, nor about the economic selfishness of northern, developed nations.

She brought many of these same arguments to the Bella Center today.

"Governments don't want to address (debt) because this is big business," Maathai said, noting that much of the money lent by developed countries goes back into their own coffers, to pay for food and other imports. "And I cannot understand the

inability of African leaders to protect themselves from exploitation."

Maathai's concern about exploitation stems precisely from the lack of political participation by most members of society, what she calls "lack of proper governance." Because of this, the dearth of aid money is not at issue, she says. Rather, she explained, "It is the mismanagement of whatever resources are available. They can promise millions. But if they don't have an open, corruption-free governance, it is business as usual."

### BELLA S. ABZUG

## Life, death and motherhood

Once again, world leaders will gather with NGOs and women's groups to discuss issues of critical concern to the world's poor and disadvantaged.

Many of us have worked hard over the past few months to give shape and substance to the Summit's themes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. For us, the question to be asked is: How will this Summit be different from others?

There are many reasons why expectations are so high this time around. This is the first UN conference to explicitly address social development. Its focus on money and mobilization for basic social services makes Copenhagen the most important leg of the long journey from Rio to Beijing.

Here, countries will reaffirm the fundamental principles of the last several summits: at Rio, sustainable development for present and future generations; at Vienna, universal human rights; at Cairo, women's health and empowerment as key to population-related development policies.

This is why it is crucial that leaders come to Copenhagen with more than fine speeches. To the uplifting themes of the Social Summit, we will add two more: action and commitment. What specific actions will countries announce to provide health for all, to educate women, to eliminate discrimination against the girl child? At the heads of state sessions, which countries will pledge to implement time-bound targets to end poverty and social



### FRANKLY SPEAKING

marginalization?

Money can no longer be the catch-all excuse for inertia. Once governments make commitments to reorder priorities and make choices, they can find resources.

Consider this: Military spending totaled nearly \$770 billion worldwide in 1994. Yes, the US accounts for the lion's share of this bill but developing countries also spend as much as \$118 billion on war materiel produced by the US and other countries. By contrast, all it takes is \$40 billion a year for the rest of this decade to provide universal access to such basics as primary schooling, water and sanitation and health and nutrition in developing countries. Just 5 percent of the military pie.

Is this too much to ask governments to do? Developing countries would need to raise expenditures for basic social services from an average of 13 percent of government spending to 20 percent. Donor countries would have to match this by doubling their current aid allocations from an average of 10 percent. This is what the UN's 20/20 initiative asks them to do. Does

it take 20/20 vision to realize now that this is a good deal?

For us in the United States, the task of merely maintaining current levels of foreign aid, let alone correcting lopsided priorities, is a whole new contract in the Newt Era. Yet this is all the more reason to demand actions, not gestures, at Copenhagen.

Women have especially high stakes at the Social Summit. Over the past decade, we have demonstrated that gender is central to the debate on all global issues, from democracy and development to human rights and population and peace and the environment.

But it is no longer enough to acknowledge, in resolutions and declarations, that women's empowerment and equal participation are fundamental in solving many of the world's crises. It is time to make good the commitments made in Nairobi, Rio, Cairo and Vienna. It is time to turn principles into practice, to give women their share of political space and the world's resources, to make them as visible to economists as they are to demographers.

If the world's leaders find the political will, Copenhagen could be a truly historic summit. It could be about courage, commitment and credibility. Ambassador Juan Somavia has urged heads of state to announce in Copenhagen at least one initiative to implement the Social Summit. The Danes started us off well with their announcement to cancel some \$118 million in debt. Those who follow their lead are on the right track.

# NGOs, press gain access

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

delegation. While the access issue dominated the Women's Caucus meeting, the gathering, held on International Women's Day became a cross between a political strategy session and a religious revival meeting.

After singing several rounds of "Women, women, let us unite, women, women, stand up for your rights," Abzug complained about the lack of access problem. She said, "the informal informals have essentially been confined to delegates."

Abzug said she appealed to Main Committee Chairman Juan Somavia to allow NGOs to get into the working groups. She also warned the conference about attempts by some delegation to open up prior commitments made in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development.

Somavia later turned up at the meeting and told the Caucus that he was dismayed by the NGO arrangements at the Summit.

But Somavia gushed praise of the Caucus's work. "If there's one constant throughout this whole process, it is the strength of the women's movement. In my entire international experience, I have never seen such a formidable expression of support."

Somavia said that just a few years ago, he met with the "most incredible skepticism" about what the Summit was all about, but that the support of the women's movement help give the Summit credibility.

He said if it were not for the support of the women's groups, "this conference would not exist, adding, My being here is just a way of saying thanks."

### CALENDAR

## Thursday

10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

Bella Centre, Plenary  
General exchange of views,  
"Employment"

9:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

Eigtveds Pakhus, Room II  
"Reclaiming Civil Society in the Global South"  
Center for the Study of the Global South, The American University

3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

NGO Forum, Room 100  
Cities in Crisis: Responses from the Grassroots and Pavement

7:30 PM

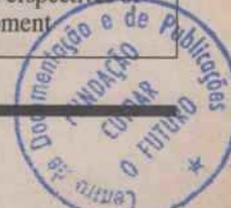
Tivoli Concert Hall  
"Golden Day" recital and music arrangements

9:00 PM

Cirkus Building, Copenhagen  
"World in Motion" concert, "Up with People", international youth group

10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

Eigtveds Pakhus, Room III  
Ethical & Religious Perspectives of Social Development



# Tivoli will be open just for you

In the heart of Copenhagen lie the most beautiful gardens in the world. Come and find out what it is that makes Tivoli something absolutely unique. Experience the fantastic amusements, the performing artistes, music at the pavilions, restaurants that cater for every palate, the Tivoli Museum with its story of the gardens since they opened in 1843, the Concert Hall, the classic Pantomime Theatre, and the night sky above Tivoli that is lit by an unparalleled firework display.

Visitors to Tivoli are asked to use the main entrance in Vesterbrogade. Copenhagen Culture Card gives you free admission to Tivoli and all its amusements.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 10

**12.00 noon**  
The Tivoli Gardens open

**1.00pm**  
All amusements open

**4.00, 6.00, 7.30 and 9.30pm**  
Pantomime Theatre  
Performance "The Deceived Tailor"

**5.00 and 11.00pm**  
Promenade Pavilion  
The Promenade Orchestra entertains

**6.30 and 8.30pm**  
The Tivoli Boys Guard  
Parade through the Gardens

**7.00 and 10.30pm**  
Open-Air Stage  
Performing acrobats

**7.00pm**  
Jazzhus Slukefter  
Jørgen Svare Slukefter All Stars,  
featuring Ole Stolle

**8.00 and 9.00pm**  
Brass Band Stand  
Tivoli's Big Band entertains

**11.45pm**  
Fireworks  
From the Concert Hall

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11

**12.00 noon**  
The Tivoli Gardens open

**1.00pm**  
All amusements open

**4.00, 6.00, 7.30 and 9.30pm**  
Pantomime Theatre  
Performance "The Deceived Tailor"

**5.00, 7.00 and 10.00pm**  
Open-Air Stage  
Performing acrobats

**6.30 and 8.30pm**  
The Tivoli Boys Guard  
Parade through the Gardens

**7.00pm**  
Jazzhus Slukefter  
Jørgen Svare Slukefter All Stars,  
featuring Ole Stolle

**8.00 and 9.00pm**  
Brass Band Stand  
Tivoli's Big Band entertains

**8.30pm**  
The Concert Hall

**BEST OF DENMARK**  
Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra

**Conductor:**  
Thomas Dausgaard

**Performers:**  
Inga Nielsen - Jewel aria from Gounod's Faust

Aage Haugland - Jeronimus' song  
from Carl Nielsen's Maskarade

Michala Petri - Vivaldi

The Safri Duo - Champagne-Galop by H.C. Lumbye/Fuzzy

Linie 3 and Jan Glæsel's Orchestra

Cecilie Eliasson and Eilat Harel dance Tango Jalousie by J. Gade

Flemming Enevold, Alberte, Kurt Ravn a.o. - highlights  
from Danish musicals: Cyrano, Aladdin and Atlantis  
**Conductor:** Fini Hostrup

The Tivoli Boys Guard

Tickets: DKK 75, 95, 135, 175 can be bought from  
The Tivoli Ticket Centre, phone 33 15 10 12 from  
11.00am-5.00pm, The Tourist Information  
in Bella Center, Center Hall/B4 from  
8.00am-7.00pm or at NGO  
Information Center,  
Tourist Service from  
10.00am-10.00pm

The concert ticket allows  
free admission through  
Tivoli's Main Entrance

**8.30 and 11.00pm**  
Promenade Pavilion  
The Promenade Orchestra  
entertains

**10.30pm**  
The Concert Hall

**BEST OF DENMARK**  
(see programme 8.30pm)

**11.45pm**  
Fireworks  
From the Concert Hall

# TIVOLI

