



Press Release
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ODC Experts Group Offers Recommendations for World Summit for Social Development

Washington, D.C.--"The 1995 World Summit for Social Development is an important opportunity for the nations of the world to respond to three urgent human and social concerns: poverty, unemployment, and social integration," asserts John W. Sewell, President of ODC. "The second Preparatory Committee meeting in New York will be critical because there has been a noticeable lack of attention to, and preparation for, the Social Summit up to this point. To advance the discussion on the potential of the Summit, ODC brought together experts from around the world to a meeting in Princeton, New Jersey, in June."

The participants made substantive recommendations for the Summit's Declaration and Programme of Action, including:

◆ **Forge a new vision for social development progress.** People are the ends--not the means--of economic progress and development. A commitment to upholding human rights, creating gender equity, eliminating discrimination, enhancing the environment, and eradicating poverty is essential.

◆ **Adopt a global compact on poverty.** Countries must be called upon to reduce poverty within a specified time period. In addition, a compact should reaffirm social targets in health, education, nutrition, as well as human rights and nondiscrimination.

◆ **Increase productive capacities and opportunities.** Governments



need to provide education and training, basic health and reproductive services, clean water and sanitation, and improved access to credit and productive assets.

◆ **Strengthen civil society.** Governments and donor agencies can work together to promote a strong civil society through creating an enabling environment and supporting legislative reform.

◆ **Promote social, economic, and gender equity.** Groups who are marginalized or discriminated against must be protected and empowered.

◆ **Foster equitable economic growth.** This approach creates jobs and eases poverty. Developing countries need better access to industrial country markets to reduce dependence on aid.

◆ **Reform international institutions.** Procedures should be set up to reform the United Nations, IMF, World Bank, and GATT/WTO. These institutions should also strengthen their data collection and statistical systems.

◆ **Examine options for financing social development.** Leaders should agree on the principle of reprogramming expenditures towards social programs. Also, the "20:20" compact--providing a minimum of 20 percent of donor and recipient budgets for human priority concerns--should be further clarified and considered.

Copies of the conference report, A New Agenda for Social Development: Recommendations for the 1995 World Summit on Social Development, written by Nicole Melcher and Timothy A. Johnston, are currently available to the press.



Not all participants in ODC's meeting would subscribe to each recommendation. ODC is a private, non-profit institution that provides comprehensive analysis of the economic and political issues of U.S.-developing country relations. ODC's program is funded by foundations, corporations, and private individuals. The views in this report are those of the participants and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the contributors, ODC as an organization, or its individual officers, or Board, Council, or staff members.