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THE INDEPENDENT DAILY OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

# TERRAVIVA

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Sovereignty is all

## All bark no bite at poverty talks

By Luis Cordova and Yvette Collymore

Negotiators at the poverty summit were stuck last night on a political issue that delayed expected approval of the documents until Thursday.

The sovereignty of nations and the right to development are the key issues holding up approval, said the head of the main negotiating Committee, Australian Ambassador Richard Butler.

A wide range of views characterised the discussions. Other issues of the declaration and programme of action were still being debated late Wednesday night. Negotiators said they planned to wrap things up by midnight.

One of the most difficult issues which also raised the question of sovereignty, was workers' rights.

India's chief negotiator Venugopal argues that G-77 countries are all committed to labour rights and have signed numerous International Labour Organisation (ILO) agreements.

He says developing countries are sceptical about talk of a labour standards code that may come with strings attached to trade and other areas.

### Conventions

Venugopal told IPS that sovereignty is a key question. The G-77 position calls for countries to ensure the quality of jobs and respect for relevant ILO conventions within the framework of each country's laws.

"We would like to see this done voluntarily," he said, noting that India is itself concerned of issues like child labour. One of the concerns of developing countries, he said is how to abolish certain practices and open up markets as the West would have them do overnight.

Development watchers say world leaders will sign on to positions that have more bark than bite when they meet here at the weekend. Negotiators at the poverty meet have compromised heavily on key documents.

The summit negotiators raced to finalise agreements Wednesday on the draft declaration and programme of action, but informal discussions on questions of debt and aid targets are

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### Unchain the world

The two main sites of the Social Summit - one where governments meet and the other where people meet - will be joined by a human chain today symbolising the need for synergy between the two to tackle world poverty.

The human chain will begin at the main committee room at the Bella Center and pass out to the main exit. Juan Somavia, chairman of the preparatory committee will pass a gavel to start the chain.

The gavel will be carried by a runner to the NGO Forum where it will pass from hand to hand to end up with children.

The organisers say if enough people turn up, there will be no need for a runner and the gavel will pass hand-to-hand along the 10 km route.

A view from a different perspective:

Delegates at the Bella Centre, Wednesday. A report, to be released today by UNESCO, addresses 'Overcoming Obstacles to the Integration of Disabled People'. See page 13.



## G-77 cure for a sick world

A group of NGOs has told the G-77 bloc of developing nations to shift from a market-centered world to a human-centered one.

At a meeting with the G-77 development activists pushed a formula for development that put human beings at the centre.

The G-77 was represented by Philippine Secretary for Social Welfare and Development Corazon Alma de Leon. The Philippines currently chairs the G-77.

"The paradigms of human development have for too many years been based on inadequate mechanistic models which have failed to address basic needs," said the

"The emphasis of such models on sheer economic growth and market mechanisms has exacerbated the ills afflicting the world body," the groups said. For them, the Social Summit documents do not go as far as seeking a redefinition of the current market-oriented model of development.

In a more detailed paper, the group said the documents reflect a "tacit acceptance" of SAPs despite their failure, a lack a review of its flawed foundations, and a failure to tackle the issues of "multinationals, financial centers, effects of stock exchange fluctuations, speculation of currency values and corruption."

"Freedom of trade and open markets are not ends in themselves," the NGOs said.

De Leon said the G-77 agrees the mechanistic model has serious flaws, but added there may still be room for improvement.



Delegates at the Bella Center yesterday. Picture: Klaus Holsting

Women protest summit apathy

# Hunger striking women urge action - not talk

by Jaya Dayal and Mahesh Uniyal

'If a true commitment to poverty eradication is to be made, issues around resources and rights 'are non-negotiable'

Women activists are resorting to extreme measures at the poverty summit to force government delegates to act — not talk away their responsibilities.

A group of roughly 20 women Wednesday began a hunger protest against the talkfest at the Bella Centre which they argue will leave the world's 1.3 billion poor no better off than before.

"Our fast seeks to highlight that the basis of this problem

is the organisation of international finance and the distortion of political power," says a statement by the mostly Caribbean women.

Jocelyn Dow of the Guyana-based Red Thread women's group, who leads the protest, said, "We are calling on people worldwide to join us in solidarity and to impress upon their governments who conduct these negotiations with the urgency and commitment they demand." The protest will continue through the

end of the conference.

The Guyanese president Cheddi B. Jagan briefly joined the protesters in a show of solidarity. Indian anti-forced labour activist Swami Agnivesh said such protests are necessary to push governments to action.

The women say official delegates attending the summit talks can act now to cancel Third World debt, re-deploy resources to basic social services, protect women's rights, and ensure democratic

participation by marginalised groups.

They pointed to the example of Denmark and the United States as nations who had already taken first concrete steps to meet the Summit goal.

Denmark has taken a decision to write-off the debt of five African countries worth more than 100 million dollars. The United States Wednesday announced a grant of 100 million dollars for girls and women's education in poor

nations.

"If a true commitment to poverty eradication is to be made" Dow said, issues around resources and rights "are non-negotiable."

At the talks here, activists are fighting hard to keep the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and industrialised countries from watering down required action in these areas.

For example, Oxfam charged that at the summit, the World Bank is making false claims that its redesigned structural adjustment programmes are poor-friendly.

It notes that a specially-produced Bank report for the summit, 'Advancing Social Development,' says health and education are key to the new SAPs.

"We say that the World Bank is restructuring SAPs in a way that will not achieve the objective of poverty alleviation," says Eugenia Piza-Lopez of Oxfam.

Patricia Feeney, Oxfam spokesperson, said: "It is no longer acceptable for the World Bank and governments to collude in imposing unacceptable costs on the poor in order to meet macro-economic targets."

Meanwhile women activists are concerned over efforts by the Vatican and a handful of countries to backtrack from earlier commitments to protect women's health.

Earlier in the day, Iran and the Vatican blocked a proposal to introduce reproductive health education in children's schooling.

Activists are expected to hold a demonstration Thursday before the Bella Centre to protest against government complacency on poverty.

One senior U.N. official told Terra Viva that the marchers would not be stopped from entering the tightly-guarded centre of the poverty talks. FOR EMERGENCY

## Italy: less aid, but stress on relief

by Marcela Valente.

Italy's development cooperation budget shrank to one billion dollars in 1994, half the level two years ago. But under a new plan announced yesterday in Rome, more emphasis will go to humanitarian aid, peacekeeping and human rights.

A new international cooperation policy Italy's government announced yesterday will hinge on strengthening human development objectives, according to Francisco Alisio, Director-General of Italian Cooperation.

Aloisi admitted that Italian aid has shrunk, but said the reduction should be seen as a challenge rather than a limitation.

"I am sorry that my country cut cooperation to such an extent, but I must admit that, since we had less resources we were forced to work more efficiently," he said.

"We have to concentrate our efforts in countries with the most urgent needs and increase our commitment to human development," he said. "That's why we came to this summit."

Under this new policy Italian cooperation will work closely with NGOs and other international bodies, since linking up with them is the key success, as was borne out by PRODERE, a programme for Displaced People, Refugees and Repatriated Persons in Central America.

"We believe global cooperation is small, but it can be more important if viewed in relation to other aspects such as foreign debt or interest rates. That is why we are going to work more directly to develop local enterprises," he told Terra Viva.

PRODERE's triumph. See page 12

## Women's groups already gearing up for Beijing

by Johanna Son

The Social Summit isn't over yet, but NGOs are already picking through the draft programme of action for the Beijing conference on women in September. So far, they don't like what they see.

Using the occasion of International Women's Day, a number of women's groups and NGOs yesterday pointed out that the Beijing programme glosses over the structural causes of inequality and the international system's failure to address women's needs.

Twenty-four women's NGOs from around the world issued a joint declaration outlining their disappointment with the draft and providing suggestions on how to strengthen it.

Another group of 14 NGOs belonging to the Linkage Caucus issued a separate communique saying the

Fourth World Conference on Women should deal not with words, but with "resources, implementation, enforcement, integration and accountability".

The first statement - Stepping Stones for the Beijing Conference - said: "We feel here is an overall lack of concern by governments in seriously addressing the problems that women face."

"We are worried that the document lacks any analysis as to how the present context has changed both at a global level as well as in our own countries and how these changes affect the lives of women."

Among the groups behind the statement were the Development Alternatives for Women for a New Era (DAWN), Oxfam in the United Kingdom and Ireland and the Asian Women's Human Rights Council.

Oxfam's Eugenia Piza-Lop-

ez said the draft programme at present was "extra weak" on the link between structural adjustment programmes and the feminisation of poverty and missed out the growing problem of trafficking of women, among others.

Other issues the group said the conference should address are violence against women, unemployment, wage discrimination and "political and religious fundamentalism".

The Linkage Caucus, in their announcement, stressed the need for stronger institutions and adequate resources for the enforcement of international accords affecting women and the integration of gender concerns into policymaking at all levels.

"It is time to make good the commitments and turn the principles into practice," the statement said.

Discussions on the draft at the United Nations will begin on March 15.



## Iran and Vatican allied Sex education in brackets

by Mahesh Uniyal

Iran and the Vatican Wednesday stalled an attempt by Western nations at the Copenhagen Social Summit to make sex education in schools a necessary condition for social development.

Canada had proposed this as part of an amendment to the commitments world leaders would sign, but a meeting of the Working Group on Education and Health agreed to defer its consideration.

The group finally accepted a Canadian suggestion to bracket the list of health issues, including reproductive health. It will remain bracketed until the decision of another group on this issue was known.

"It appears that reproductive health and family planning services may create problems for some delegations," the Canadian delegate said.

Iran had proposed deleting the list altogether. The representative of the Holy See said "more acceptable language" was needed.

Para (ff) introduced by Canada in the list of education and health commitments called on nations to "strive to establish or strengthen both school-based and community-based health education programs for children, adolescents and adults on a range

of health issues including nutrition, common diseases and injuries, and reproductive health as a prerequisite for social development".

The United States wanted the phrase, "including family planning" added after "reproductive health". It opposed the Iranian suggestion to delete the listing of health issues. The Iranian delegate suggested a full stop after "a range of health issues".

"We honestly don't need to go further from this point," he said. However, the Holy See representative pointed out that the proposal required "building bridges" between developed and developing countries. He said it was a matter of concern that "school-based programmes for children are also talking about health (to include reproductive health education)".

It is known that in the West, school education includes a lot of items under the rubric of health education, he added. He endorsed the suggestion of the Argentine delegate to replace "health education programs" with "preventive health education" as this would restrict the kind of health instruction in schools.

However, the European Union backed the suggestion of the Group of 77 nations to replace "strive to establish" with a commitment to "establish or strengthen" school and community health education.

## Laws limit the Inuit ways

# Frozen off their land

by Gumisai Mutume

For centuries, the Inuit people of the Arctic have lived in harmony with their icy land and seas. Now, new restrictions have put these resources out of their reach.

The 100,000 Inuit of the Arctic regions of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia are bound by trade prohibitions that have robbed them of lifestyle and earnings.

United States and European Union environmental legislation renders trade in animals and marine life crucial to the survival of the Inuit people either impossible or unprofitable.

"During the last 15 years or so, our markets for seal skin which used to be economically sustainable have been destroyed by the massive campaigns of environmental and animal rights movements," says Jorgen Johansen.

"As a result many hunters and their families throughout the Arctic are suffering due to lack of income," says Johansen, environmental co-ordinator for the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), a non-

governmental organisation representing the interests of the approximately 115,000 Inuit people.

ICC says in Greenland for instance, where some 50,000 Inuit live, the government has been forced to spend about 800,000 dollars annually in subsidies due to the collapse of the seal skin trade.

The crash was invoked by a piece of U.S. legislation, passed during the 1970's and regularly revised, known as the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). It bans imports of marine mammal products.

A proposed EU bill "to meet the moral objection of the European people" will from next year ban imports of fur from 13 animal species originating from countries where leg hold traps are used.

It is mainly the effects of these two acts which threatens the livelihoods of the Inuits.

"This is not a dispute where car parts or television sets are being threatened," said Johansen. "It is a dispute where our fundamental rights and ways of life are at stake."



An African musician at a Womens Day event. Picture by Klaus Holsting

'We may be in for a surprise at the Summit': Pronk

## Two words that mean so much Debt Cancellation

by Thalif Deen

Don't paint the situation in  
somber colours

Just before he left Copenhagen after addressing the plenary, the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation made a prediction: "We may be in for a surprise by the end of the summit."

Jan Pronk said the two dreaded words in the international banking community - debt cancellation - may still come out of a summit deadlocked on the issue of financial resources.

In a wide-ranging interview with Terra Viva, Pronk said there is a need to rethink development priorities, increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to poorer nations and seek new and

innovative ways of financing global economic development.

"There is general public reaction that is being manipulated by opinion leaders who have an interest in cutting public expenditures," he said, and added: "There are Gingrichs and would-be Gingrichs in Western Europe."

Alluding to the political philosophy of Speaker Newt Gingrich, the far right U.S. politician, Pronk said: "It is a balanced budget syndrome. In my opinion, it is old fashioned economics. It is based on the principle: let the private sector do the job."

Pronk also pointed out it was a misconception that Africa is being marginalised by European nations. "Don't paint the situation in somber colours," he added.

Excerpts from the interview:

On ODA: There is a need for more resources applied less selfishly. Far too many countries give aid to promote exports of their own priorities, rather than those of the recipients. I have always seen ODA as a device to redistribute income and as part of an international social security policy. Perhaps the recipient

should not only be nations but also minority groups, or special target groups or a particular region in a country.

On a New Definition of ODA: Since there are new demands from countries in transition - who were not recipients of ODA before - there is perhaps a need to redefine ODA. I always said aid is necessary for Poland and former Soviet republics because it is in the interests of Western Europe to do so. But we shouldn't do this at the expense of say, aid to Africa. One way of doing it is by setting higher targets for ODA. The current definition of ODA is the definition of the 1960s. Some of the former recipients of ODA who have achieved development successes should start giving assistance to other countries. Why not?

On Arms Spending: It is hypocritical to ask developing countries to reduce their arms expenditures while you are still interested in exporting your arms to them. The Netherlands had a strong NGO campaign against landmines, and last year the government promised to destroy its stock of landmines rather than export although there was potential economic value in them.

On U.N. Restructuring: I am a strong advocate of a new Economic Security Council. Since 1972, there has been all this talk of beefing up the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). But it was a non-starter. Currently, ECOSOC does not have any

political effect at all. No economic ministers or finance ministers are really interested in either listening to ECOSOC or even giving instructions any more.

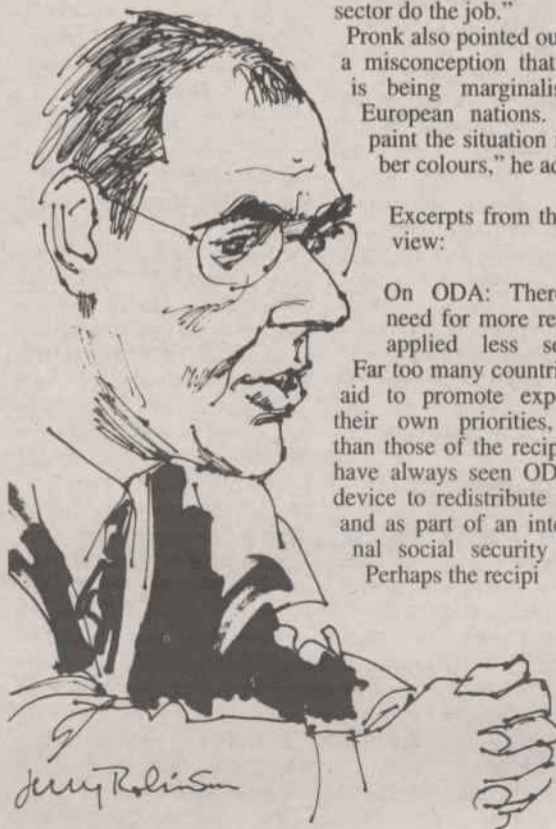
People in ECOSOC think they are doing an important job but it has no political impact. If you want to create a new body and you have to dismantle others, you do it. You don't need all these inter-governmental bodies which overlap each other. But don't dismantle them unless you get a better mechanism to replace them.

On Social Exploitation and Social Exclusion: Exclusion is at the root of the thinking of this summit. I always made a distinction between exploitation of people and exclusion of people.

The exploitation of people was the major source of poverty in the past. There were so many people in the labour market who were paid extremely low wages. The labour unions fought within the system and changed the system. But exclusion is completely different. When you are excluded, you don't get any access to markets. Your labour is not deemed necessary.

You are not even exploited. The market says there is enough purchasing power and it does not need you. People are excluded because they are a burden. This is how Reaganism and Thatcherism started. It is now beginning to creep into Europe. It could have major consequences.

On New Sources of Financing: I am personally in favor of something like the Tobin Tax on international speculative capital flows.





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## Powerless voices - South & North

### Opinion

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have had - or have assigned themselves - the role of communicating the concerns of poor people. And, frustrated by the reality divide between the Bella Centre and life as the poor know it, some NGOs yesterday organised hunger strikes and sit-ins to refocus the delegates.

The question is: when will poor people be able to speak for themselves? The inability to communicate is a major cause of poverty, and can take several forms. Illiteracy means no access to or influence over the print media. As for the audiovisual media, the question of language is important. In many countries, the language of former colonial masters dominates the discourse (and the education system) leading to further alienation. Alienation is also caused because oral traditions that kept communities viable are being eroded, without being replaced by anything relevant.

Of course, even if the possibility of access to the media existed, there is hunger, ill-health, exhaustion, over-work, lack of infrastructure and many other aspects of deprivation. The poor rarely have

the luxury of reflection to engage in debate.

Having little capacity to exert pressure for change through communication, the wretched of the earth are left with violence as the only way to attract attention. The demands of the disadvantaged in Mexico received much more attention from the media when the Zapatistas in Chiapas launched their revolution.

Unequal access to communication is not just a problem of poverty. It is also a problem of North-South relations, and of the largely one-way flow of news, radio and television

packages, films. The fact that the North stamped out the calls for a different world information order does not make it any less important.

People North and South are excluded from the content of much of what is run on the media. "Where," a summit participant asked, "are the proposals for solutions, the positive role models, the experiences of ordinary people in day-to-day life?" In his address to the opening of the NGO Forum, Juan Somavia cal-

led on NGOs to make the media more responsive to serious questions and real issues.

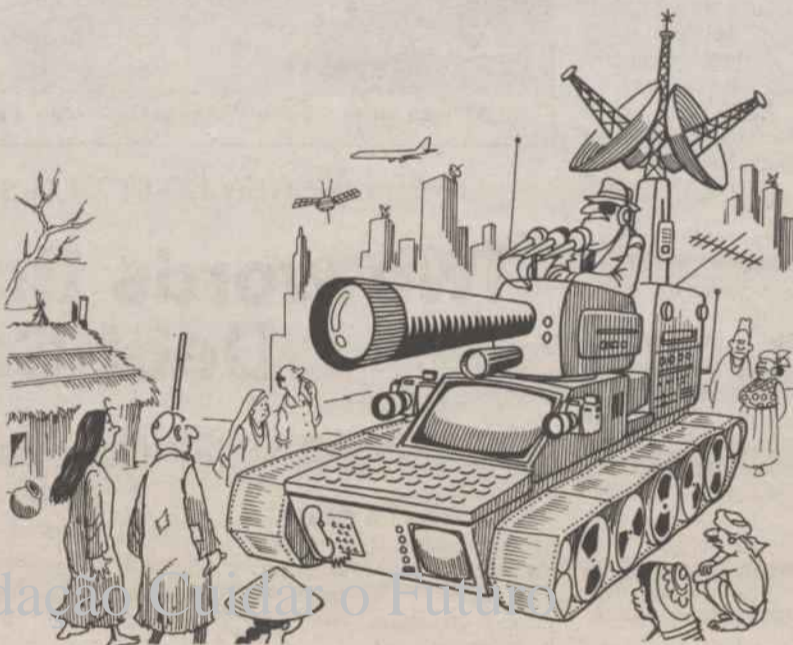
It's a vicious circle. The media moguls want to sell. Scandal, sex and disaster sell well. Conflict makes a story. Take the press release issued here by the National Council of the Churches of Christ about the fact that their General Secretary is serving as a private sector advisor to the U.S. government delegation.

To capture the attention of the press, the media advisory has to focus on problems in its suggestions

for possible angles. The General Secretary could 'find herself' caught in the middle' between the NCC-CUSA/CWS official delegation's position on an issue and that of the Clinton Administration". It goes on: "One possible tension: whether free-market economic reforms are the right prescription for developing nations." No tension, no story.

Interestingly, this summit is using the latest technology to open up communications, setting new standards of interaction. The Association of Progressive Communications has once more made it possible for people all over the world to interact on summit issues, and to debate these wherever they are. UNICEF is enabling youth around the world to send in their analysis of conference issues. Through SOCSUN.LIST, UNDP is enabling students and academics to review and comment on the documentation, with suggestions passed on to the summit.

Technology, once controlled by the few, may enable the many to bypass the media and get at the news they really want. But who will enable the poor to have a voice?



## The pen is mightier than the sword



Column by Vaclav Havel,  
 President of the Czech  
 Republic

National, racial, religious, social and political intolerance has been the lot of humanity for millennia, and it is unfortunately deeply rooted in the human psyche and in the spirit of entire human communities.

The problem is that like many other things, this phenomenon - now that we live in a world with a single global civilization - is far more dangerous than it has ever been before.

The time when conflicts between peoples, empires, cultures, and individual civilizations had only local impact is gone forever. On today's overpopulated planet, girdled by dense networks of political and economic relations, and of information and communication links, everything that happens now inevitably touches and concerns us all in far more ways than it ever did before.

Yes, we live in a remarkable time. It is not just that we now learn, almost instantaneously, about the deeply shocking atrocities that take place in the world; it is also a time when every local conflict has the potential to divide the international community and become the catalyst for a far wider conflict, one that in many cases is even global.

This alarming state of affairs has not yet come home to

a large part of humanity, particularly those who do not yet feel directly threatened by any of the contemporary ills of civilization.

Nevertheless it is precisely this state of affairs, when human malice ceases to be a mere assault on our feelings and becomes a direct threat to us, that can lead to a reawakening in people of a sense of responsibility to the world.

But how can a change in awareness be brought about? How can people be made to understand that every act of violence against individuals ceases to be just a reason to feel compassion and becomes a real act of violence against us all? How can it be explained to politicians and the public that a short-sighted focusing on purely personal or group interests, on immediate interests, is only paving the road to hell?

In these matters, writers and intellectuals can and must have a role that only they can fill. They are people whose profession, indeed whose very vocation, is to perceive far more profoundly than others the general context of things, to feel a general sense of responsibility for the world and to publicly articulate this inner experience.

To achieve this they have essentially two instruments available to them. The first is

opinion. This other instrument is the public activity of intellectuals as citizens, when they engage in politics in the broadest sense of the word.

Let us admit that most of us writers feel an essential aversion to politics. We see entering politics as a betrayal of our independence, and we reject it on the grounds that the job of the writer is simply to write.

By taking such a position however we accept the perverted principle of specialization, according to which some are paid to write about the horrors of the world and human responsibility and others to deal with those horrors and the human responsibility for them. It is the principle of a rather doubtful division of labor: some are here to understand the world and morality, without having to intervene in that world and turn morality into action; others are here to intervene in that world and behave morally, without being bound in any way to understand any of it.

A writer with an aversion to politics seems to me like a scientist studying the holes in the ozone layer who is not bothered by the fact that his superior is developing chlorofluorocarbons.

I am convinced that the world of today, with so many

threats to its civilization and so little capacity to deal with them, is crying out for people who have understood something of that world and know what to do about it to play a more vigorous role in politics. I felt this when I was an independent writer and my time in politics has only confirmed the correctness of that feeling, because it has showed me how little there is in world politics of the mindset that makes it possible to look further than the border of the next district and its momentary moods, or beyond the next election.

What we need is to create something like a world-wide lobby, a special brotherhood or, if I may use the word, a somewhat conspiratorial mafia whose aim is not just to write marvelous books or occasional manifestos, but to have an impact on politics and its human perceptions in a coordinated and deliberate way and in many visible and invisible ways, to help open eyes.

● The preceding column was written exclusively for Inter Press Service. (c) IPS.

Cartoon of Vaclav Havel by Zlatovsky, the Moscow News. (c) Cartoonist & Writers Syndicate.



## Swedish justice - for all

by Ruby Ofori

Only social justice can bring about democracy and economic growth, Sweden's Minister for international development cooperation, Pierre Schori, said yesterday.

"This is a very clear and obvious truth which has to be highlighted, that we cannot achieve development without having equality," he said at a press briefing.

Schori said his government was committed to a policy of development cooperation centred on "democracy, popular, participation and women's rights."

Supporting women activists at the Bella conference centre protesting alleged Western government indifference over

poverty eradication, he said "they should fight and fight again. It's the only way."

At a UNDP panel earlier in the day, Schori said Sweden's men had set up a network to stop violence against women. For too long, he said, "women have had responsibility without power, whereas men often had power without responsibility."

The minister told Terra Viva the 20/20 aid concept was not enough. He said more countries should meet the UN target of apportioning 0.7 percent of their national income as development assistance.

Schori said Sweden was among only four nations in the world to have met the agreed target. Indeed, he pointed out, Sweden gives 0.9 percent of its gross national product in overseas development aid.

## Health at heart of poverty

by IPS Correspondents

A senior World Health Organisation (WHO) official Wednesday stressed that health should be at the heart of the poverty debate and was fundamental to the issue.

"Health as a basic human right is inseparable from the purpose of development and is fundamental to human well-being," said Dr Aleya Hammad, special representative to the WHO Director General for Health Policy.

A recent declaration by a WHO Task Force on Health in Development states that

health "is neither a commodity nor a negotiable good that can be bought and sold for a price or traded off against economic gain".

In an interview with Terra Viva, Hammad clarified: "What we are talking about here is health status not services - that is, health as a state of well-being."

She said that the toll of economic reforms in developing countries on health status could not be related to the effects of World Bank policies on social sectors like education and health, as may be construed.

## Australian NGOs call for action

Australian non-governmental organisations admit their country suffers from a great disparity in living standards, but feel it can still push for improvements in social development in Copenhagen.

Andrew Hewitt of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) says Australia played a constructive role in the run-up to the summit and should continue taking an active part in efforts to combat poverty.

Hewitt, one of several NGO representatives in Australia's official delegation, says the idea is to focus on "realistic commitments and actions which would result in an improvement in social development in key areas."

Australian NGOs hope the meeting will usher in an era where social matters like health, education, employment, housing and food will be considered just as important as economic concerns.

Hewitt says developed countries also face social problems like poverty, homelessness and unemployment. Even in New York, where preparatory talks for the summit were held, homeless people were seen huddled inside cardboard boxes on the streets.

The international community, he says, should acknowledge that poverty is a global problem and find new and more effective ways of dealing with it.

But some Australians also point to the fact that much work still needs to be done at home.

Senator Sid Spindler, a member of the Australian Democrats, noted recently that Aboriginal and migrant communities in Australia do not have the same access to health, housing and education as the country's mainstream white population.

He said Australia also has to make improvements in women's employment and wages and address children's needs. Statistics show that as many as 35,000 children in the country are exposed to domestic violence every year.

The effects of the recession are still being felt across Australia, with unemployment reaching 9.7 percent.



Activist and lawyer Winifred Sekadde addresses the meeting: Picture by Klaus Holting.

## A fresh vision: Pintasilgo

"Women are the principal actors of today's world. If we follow their proposals after the summit, we will get substantial changes in social priorities of social life," the former Prime Minister of Portugal, Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo told Terra Viva.

### UNESCO

She is currently president of the Independent Commission for Population and Quality of Life based in UNESCO/Paris, which is the first organisation of its kind to have a membership with an equal number of men and women.

"This was the first time that I have experienced equality in numbers between men and women," added Pintasilgo. And half the Commission's members come from developed nations and the other half from developing countries.

The Commission's main purpose is to develop and disseminate a "fresh vision" about international population matters which "inspires and commits a large constituency worldwide".

## 180 ways out of poverty

By Remi Oyo

Using the current in-word, rural women from sub-Saharan Africa have devised 180 ways out of the poverty which besets three quarters of the continent's 560 million people.

At a press conference yesterday to celebrate International Women's Day, an informal Network of African Rural Women NGOs said they would present the 180 ways to African delegations at the summit - and lobby them for action. Spokesperson Bisi Ogunleye said the declaration would also go to key countries interested in the development of the continent.

The declaration demands that African governments earmark at least one percent of their budgets for a National NGO Trust Fund "to help rural women to have access to credit."

### Income-generating

Joan Agbo reported on a successful credit scheme in her country, Ghana, which has helped rural women out of poverty through income-generating projects. The credit scheme, a common mechanism in West Africa, is one of the ways rural women are recommending to eradicate poverty, since it would help women who do not have collateral for bank loans.

The declaration also calls for women's inclusion "in the formulation of strategies since it is women who feel the pang of poverty more in Africa".

Another recommendation is the development of local technologies - devised over centuries by rural women - to produce and store food. This should include training in managerial skills.

"Africa's women have waited in vain for actions based on several national, regional and international resolutions and the time for action has come," said Ogunleye. "The problem with our continent is not the lack of resources, but the will to harness them."

Continuing from page 1

only producing options and no binding commitments.

The negotiations promise to throw up a weak agreement on debt.

On the debt issue, committee members agreed on a provision prioritising the elimination of the bilateral debts of least developing countries (LDCs) - in particular, the countries of Africa. The original draft programme of action had recommended a deadline of 1996, but new proposals say action should be taken "as soon as possible."

The committee also agreed to adopt "innovative measures" aimed at "managing" or "alleviating" onerous debt and debt service burdens of other developing countries.

A prominent representative of the Group of 77 developing countries sees this approach as "unfair combat."

According to Pierre Defraigne, Director of North-South Relations in the EC, countries were close to an agreement Tuesday night on the debt question, which, he said, basically confirms the Paris Club agreement last December to reduce 67 percent of the debt of the heavily indebted poorest countries.

Individual European Union countries had suggested a higher 80 percent reduction. Reduction will also be awarded only on a case-by-case basis.

Development activists here note that actions are being discussed so broadly, that the

conference cannot be termed a success.

Each country will make its own decision on another key financing question.

United Nations and other officials had pushed a proposal for donor countries to devote 20 percent of their developing assistance and poor governments, 20 percent of their budgets to social programmes. The current proposal however leaves the decision to individual nations.

Limiting the 20/20 proposal to "interested" donor and recipient softens that commitment, but "I guess you have take it step by step," Filipino congressman Margarito Teves told IPS.

Officials here said developing countries would have preferred that the 20/20 proposal entail donor countries' firm commitment to spend 20 per cent of their aid budgets to social projects.

Teves described the formulation as one that would ensure "burden-sharing" between donor and recipient countries. "Developing countries are also being asked to review the quality of spending."

Other sources said the Swedish delegation proposed the adjective "interested" as a compromise, which was supported by the Canadians and then accepted by the Group of 77 developing countries.

The various proposals will go before the meeting's main committee for approval before the weekend.



## Actress pleads for Mexican Amerindians

by Diego Cevallos

Mexican actress Ofelia Medina yesterday launched a plea for help for Amerindians in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, forced from their homes by an armed conflict.

"The situation is very difficult for the Amerindians who have fled into the forest," she said at a conference in the NGO forum. "They are suffering from hunger, illness and problems of all sorts although the government is saying that nothing is happening there."

In February, 13 months after the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) launched a rebellion in Chiapas, the government ordered an army offensive against the rebels.

Since then, about a dozen people have been detained on suspicion of being EZLN leaders, while the guerrillas and their supporters have sought refuge in nearby forests, where Medina visited them.

The actress, who is famous in Mexico, also staged a recent hunger strike "for peace" in her country. She said she came to the summit "on behalf of all citizens in favour of peace and justice."

"I came to arouse international awareness even more so that everyone can express

solidarity in his/her own way with the indigenous people in Chiapas," she said.

Chiapas has also generated much interest here. More than 70 people failed to get into a conference that a Mexican NGO organised Tuesday on the issue. The 50-seat hall was packed.

"There will soon be a denouement in Chiapas," she predicted. "Either the government will step up its dirty war or something else will happen."

Before travelling to Copenhagen, Medina went to France to expose the drama in Chiapas and plans to do the same in Spain and Britain. "There is a lot of interest in the issue abroad although the response is just beginning to come in," she said.

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo has vowed never to allow any part of the country to slip away from the state's control. Although he has not withdrawn an arrest warrant issued for Deputy Commander Marcos, the EZLN's head, he has repeatedly called for dialogue with the guerrillas.

Since last month government and congress have been preparing a bill that would grant amnesty to any Zapatistas who lay down their arms.



## Inside the open house they wouldn't let you in

by Ruby Ofori

Danish sales director Chris Carsten is a lonely man at the Equal Opportunities exhibition close to the West entrance of the Bella centre.

Though well mounted, the tented project sponsored to the tune of two million kroner by the Danish ministry of social affairs has so far been a bit of a flop.

Reasons? The cold weather is one. Added to that is the fact that most of the NGOs at this summit have not been granted access to the centre.

A Terra Viva reporter who braved the icy Scandinavian winds to get to the exhibition was met by a delighted Carsten. He showed her an ingenious, electronically wired house, designed specially for the disabled.

There were kitchen cabinets that move up and down at the

touch of a button. Hoists to transport one from living room to bath and from bath to toilet with ease. Such contraptions are the product of collaboration between private industry, non-governmental organisations and the ministry. The exhibition is a sales pitch for the Danish welfare system. Called 'Equal opportunities - the Danish way' it actually is about selling the products of social welfare.

Danish experts are being

hired in the Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and even Poland - to show how-it-is-done.

Though most people at the summit don't know about the exhibition, the ministry has made a lucrative deal. Yesterday, the Danish government signed an agreement with the Philippine minister for social welfare to supply 6,000 pre-fabricated houses made for the disabled but perfectly suited for able bodied people too.

## Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Education, not arms is the answer: Mayor

# Aid alone will not ease poverty in the South

by Juan Carlos Rocha

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor yesterday criticised developed nations for not delivering on a commitment to raise aid levels to 0.7 percent of their GDPs, but rapped Third World nations for overspending on weapons.

"Let no one expect to wipe out poverty solely with foreign aid. That also depends on the developing countries deci-

ding to stop buying so many weapons, for example, and investing more in education," he told Terra Viva in an interview.

In this regard, he cited the example of the nine most populated countries in the world (China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria, Brazil and Mexico) which agreed in December 1993 to change their priorities and double their investment in education between now and the end of the century.

However, he also slated some developed nations for not meeting the 0.7-percent target.

"Some countries like Denmark and the Scandinavians have done so, but the richest nations have not. And since they have not given this small amount, we have extreme poverty in many countries," he said.

He warned that the fact that 20 percent of the world's inhabitants own 80 percent of resources of all types is a gra-

ve threat to global security and stability.

Mayor sees education as the lynchpin of the urgent social transformation the world needs to overcome poverty, noting that economic growth had always been seen, erroneously, as the solution to the world's problems.

"We are now seeing that this is not so and we are paying the social price - marginalisation, violence, mass migration - because wellbeing does not depend only on the economy, not even on political development," he said. "It depends on humanity's intellectual and moral solidarity."

Mayor said UNESCO came to Copenhagen with the expectations it has had ever since the UN system was created, to question global imbalances and promote poverty eradication through education.

Added the UNESCO head: "Poverty is just a form of exclusion. The proof of this lies in the fact that of the 800 million illiterate people in the world, two-thirds are women.

What I mean is that there are also cultural factors, in this case discrimination against women, that add to the issue of poverty."

He advocates joint efforts by developed and developing nations towards satisfying basic human needs as a way to reduce poverty, although he warned that "external aid must be there only to foster empowerment, to help every man and woman to develop themselves."

Mayor said that if the UN system, NGOs, parliamentarians and the media, this could lead to a great social innovation which would be accompanied by "very strong readjustments in the most industrialised countries."

"So far we have been implementing (structural) adjustments only in the developing countries: now I believe that those who have to adjust are the most advanced nations."

Resuming in a nutshell the type of social transformation he would like to see promoted at Copenhagen, he said: give every man and woman the capacity to decide for him or herself. Do not give them models, but principles and aid for their own human development.



## On the Way Up by Summiteer

Now that the United Nations is trying to get big business and transnationals interested in sustainable development, it looks like the funding situation may ease up a bit, no? Since a lot of them are richer than entire nations, how about a CEO Summit?

When non-aligned summits and regional conferences are held in Third World countries, governments waste millions of dollars buying stretched armoured plated limousines for heads of state. Some of the cars are later sold off (duty free) to local tycoons who are the only ones who can afford to buy the chariots anyway.

In a PR coup, Volvo has "lent" 200 black 960s for the use of kings, heads of states, heads of governments and potentates and their wives. After the summit, we hear from a usually sober motoring source, the cars will return to the Volvo factory in Gothenburg in Sweden, be de-summitted, reconditioned and shipped off to export markets. (It could turn out that the same head of state of Backlashistan who rode it in Copenhagen will buy it for his fleet back home.)

Well, let's just hope they drive the Volvos back to Gothenburg more carefully. The same source tells us that seven of the cars had accidents while being driven in from the ferry port - five were totalled and two others were repaired and are carrying world leaders even as we speak. A pretty high mortality rate by any Summit standard.

Danish Army servicemen had been recruited to be the chauffeurs/body guards/valets whose recent driving experience has been restricted to armoured personnel carriers. Some of these drivers were spotted at a parking lot on the outskirts of Copenhagen last week taking a crash course (is this a pun? - Ed.) in driving the Summitmobiles which as all motoring schools specialising in it will tell is no piece de resistance - it calls for breakneck speeds and taking corners at Mach 1.5.





# NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

## EVENTS

# 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH

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

**Forældre og Fødsel, Hellerup Parents and Childbirth**  
 1) Immunizations, are they safe, do they work?  
 09:00 14:45  
 Workshop  
 English  
 C,3,22\*

**Ins de Investigacion y Desarrollo Comunal 'La Libertad' (IIDC)**  
 1) La Pobreza en el Per. 2) Campaña contra la Desertificación  
 Desertificación en el Per.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Conference  
 Spanish  
 C,4,33

**Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres**  
 2) Seminar on women's political and social participation in northern and southern countries. Developing common strategies. women, migration, violence, and traffick of women.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 C,3,23\*

**Community Development Research Foundation (CODERFO)**  
 3) Adolescent Sexuality in Tanzania  
 Reproductive health and AIDS situation  
 09:00 10:45  
 Other  
 English  
 C,2,09\*

**Centre Béninois pour le Développement des Initiatives la Base**  
 3) Droits de l'homme  
 Droits de l'homme, environnement, femmes, pauvreté, développement, intégration sociale.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Workshop  
 French  
 C,2,10\*

**Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres**  
 3) Seminar on women's political and social participation in northern and southern countries: Women, migration and racism.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop

Spanish  
 C,3,20\*

**Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres**  
 4) Seminar on women's political and social participation in northern and southern countries: Developing common strategies. Cultural relations of women movement northsouth.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 C,2,11\*

**Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund, Women Worker Union in Denmark**  
 Arbejdslivets sygdomme. Organizers: KAD & SiD  
 Arbejdsmiljøets indvirkning på de sociale forhold./Muligh. for at vise film.  
 09:00 20:45  
 Conference  
 Danish  
 C,2,06\*

**Fundacion Biotropicos**  
 Biodiversity, aesthetics and Amerindian cultural productions  
 This workshop will be focused to the survival of sustainable and diverse styles of production and life, making it possible to perserve aborigen cultures etc.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 English, Spanish  
 H,1,42

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

**Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for Advancement of Women**  
 Caribbean and Social Development obstacles and strategies for survival  
 Strategies for survival. Poverty, employment, and social integration.  
 09:00 16:45  
 Workshop  
 English, Spanish  
 C,3,30\*

**Det Danske Baha'i Samfund, Danish Baha'i Community**  
 Children's Forum  
 The role of young in social integration.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Other  
 English  
 C,2,18\*

**Center for International Bæredygtig Udvikling**  
 Climate stability and full employment through ecological restructuring

09:00 20:45  
 Other  
 English  
 C,3,26\*

**Den Danske Henry George Forening The Danish Henry George Ass.**  
 Competition and Cooperation in International Trade  
 Careful and ideal use of land on Earth.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Conference  
 Danish  
 C,2,08\*

**Centro de Estudios Europeos**  
 Cooperation between Cubans and European NGOD  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 D,1,34

**FonolaSol**  
 Det multikulturelle samfund og social udvikling. E/s. i Peru, Bolivia og Tailand  
 Video and slides.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 C,2,07\*

**Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation**  
 Development Caucus  
 Daily briefing  
 09:00 10:45  
 Other  
 English, Danish  
 B,1,03\*

**De samvirkende Invalideorg. DK Council of org. of Disabled**  
 Disability Movement's Focal Point  
 Briefings on the Social Summit and disability issues. Daily announcement of meetings and workshops on disability.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Other  
 English, Danish  
 B,1,02\*

**NGO Peace Group**  
 Fredsetik. Ethics of Peace  
 Democratization of the UN (Women's Int. League for Peace and Freedom). Ethics of Peace (Baha'i)  
 09:00 18:45  
 Other  
 English, Danish  
 C,4,32

**The Global Commission to Fund the United Nations**  
 Funding Social Development  
 An Independent Funding stream for the United Nations.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Conference  
 English  
 C,2,17\*

**Rural Enterprising as a Community Help 'REACH' Fundraising and Partnership participation**  
 Project financing for Poverty alleviation in Kenya.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 English  
 G,2,39

**Centro de Estudios Sobre América**  
 Globalización, Integración y Derechos Humanos en el Caribe  
 Cambios mundiales/Integración regional/Derechos humanos en el Caribe.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 C,2,13\*

**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\*

**Net Work of African Rural Women Association**  
 Rural Women Initiatives Consequences on food security & Sustainable Development  
 Agriculture, Trade and Employment. / Video Film.  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 English, French  
 H,1,40\*

**Forum for afskaffelse af den Tvungne Arbejdsleshed**  
 Sustainable Employment  
 Global perspectives, structural unemployment, strategies for abolishing forced unemployment.  
 09:00 18:45  
 Conference  
 English  
 C,3,19\*

**AEDENAT**  
 The Bretton Woods Institutions, the main cause of poverty  
 The need to abolish the BWI. A Report from the alternative Forum of Madrid, "The other voices of the Planet" / Video film  
 09:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 Spanish  
 C,3,31\*

**Ansatte Arkitekters Råd International Union Architects.**  
 The development of cities  
 Man & nature in the future city  
 09:00 16:45  
 Workshop  
 English  
 C,3,27\*

**Danish Refugee Council, Int. Council of Voluntary Agencies**  
 The Role of NGO Emergency Assistance in Promoting Peace and Reconciliation  
 09:00 12:45  
 Other  
 English  
 C,3,21\*

**Council on International & Public Affairs.**  
 The Root Causes of the Social Crisis  
 Corporate accountability, abuse of power  
 09:00 20:45  
 Workshop  
 English  
 C,3,24\*

**United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**  
 The Social effects of Globalization: towards global citizenship  
 Launching of report followed by panel discussion  
 09:00 12:45  
 Conference  
 English  
 H,1,41\*

**Global Action on Aging**  
 Who's Taking Away our Pension  
 World Bank policies on pensions in developing countries  
 09:00 10:45  
 Workshop  
 English  
 C,2,16\*

**Agri Club National Togo**  
 Women and Development, handicapped girls of Togo  
 Integration of women and handicapped girls.  
 09:00 10:45  
 Workshop  
 English, French  
 G,1,35

**Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women in DK**  
 Women's Caucus  
 Daily briefing  
 09:00 10:45  
 Other  
 English, Danish  
 B,1,01\*

**United Nations Volunteer programme of UNDP**  
 World wide volunteer action for social development  
 State of the art multi media presentation  
 Daily: 09:00-18:00  
 English, French  
 Eigvedts Pakhus, Asiatisk Plads 2

**Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network.**  
 11:00 12:45  
 Workshop  
 English, Spanish  
 C,2,13\*




**Deutsche MERUGesellschaft**

AyurVeda  
11:00 12:45  
Workshop  
English  
G,1,35

**Hernandiana Foundation**

Education and Social Development  
Seek coincidences and unify educational criterions for Social Development.  
11:00 12:45  
Workshop  
Spanish  
C,2,10\*

**Red entre Mujeres ("Among Women Network")**

Gender development and cooperation  
11:00 12:45  
Workshop  
Spanish  
C,3,29\*

**Baha'i International Community USA**

Participatory Techniques for Social Integration Project Case Study  
Organizational behavioural change; gender integration.  
11:00 12:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,14\*

**The Rutherford Institute, Miami**

Religious Liberty and Social Integration  
Worldwide Defense of Religious Minorities regardless of their Faith.  
11:00 12:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,09\*

**The World Bank Group**

The World Bank and challenges of development  
11:00 12:45  
Other  
English  
C,4,33

**International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development**

Trade and Human Rights: Which growth for which development? Linkage between Trade Agreements and Human Rights / Labour Standards.  
11:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
D,2,34A

**U.S. NGO Social Summit Working Group**

U.S. NGO Caucus  
Discuss advocacy strategy; report of NGO members of US delegation to our national NGO.  
11:00 12:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,16\*

**Zanzibar Demoratic Alternative**

3 world economics ???  
13:00 14:45  
Conference  
English  
C,3,31\*

**Centre for Communication and Cultural Action/ Sangjog Kendra.**

Cultural action for community building  
Role of people's/folk culture in the community.  
13:00 14:45  
Video film  
English  
C,2,07\*  
EpoG Entwicklungspolitische Gesellschaft e.V.  
Experience in EastWest Development Policy Crises of Development Policy  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English, French  
C,3,29\*

**Indvandrekvindeforeningen Soldue**

Foreign debt and migration  
13:00 14:45  
Other  
English, Danish  
C,2,13\*

**FrancoisXavier Bagnoud Center for Health & Human Rights**

Health, Human Rights and Social Development  
New frontiers in the relationship between health, human rights and the importance of social development  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
H,1,40\*

**Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation**

HIV Positive Women: The Right of Motherhood?  
Attending: Dr. Else Smidt, Denmark, Theresa Kaijage, Tanzania, Caroline Maposhere, Zimbabwe, Kirsten Rotne, Denmark. Chair: Ulla Britt Buch, Denmark.  
13:00 16:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,3,21\*

**Eritrean Development Programme in the Countrysides**

Reconstruction and Health in Eritrea Health and Social Development.  
13:00 14:45  
Conference  
English  
C,2,12\*

**Int. Reproductive Rights Research Action Group.**

Reproductive Rights and Women's Social and Economic Development  
IRRRAG members will give examples from their research data in Brazil, Egypt and the US showing how reproductive rights and women's economic dev. are interdependent.  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,4,33

**Vesterbro Ordblindebutik**

Ret til at få sine "skolepenge" tilbage  
13:00 14:45  
Other  
Danish  
B,1,02\*

**North American Coalition on Religion and Ecology**

Social Development for the 21st century  
Economics, ecology and ethics.  
13:00 18:45  
Conference  
English  
H,1,41\*

**Lager & Handelsarbejderforbundet**

Social Rights, Democracy and Foreign capital  
13:00 14:45  
Conference  
Danish, Spanish  
C,2,14\*

**Institute for Planetary Synthesis Italy**

Sociocultural projects for children as a strategic step in Social Development  
Concrete projects on Human waxes in MassMedia as a global intervention program.  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,16\*

**Network Women in Development Europe**

South North Round Table  
Dialogue on the Market  
13:00 16:45  
Other  
English  
D,2,34

**Center of Concern**

Structures of Exclusion and feature testimonies from the South  
Development, poverty, human rights, women, employment, social integration.  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,17\*

**Socialdemokratiet WOMAN i de nordiske lande**

The Nordic Welfare Society  
13:00 14:45  
Conference  
English  
G,1,35

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

The Right to Food Implications for Poverty Reduction  
Workshop / Examples of how the UN Human Rights Machinery functions in Economic, Social and Cultural Human Rights.  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English, Spanish  
C,3,23\*

**The Values Caucus**

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

**Dansk Cubansk Forening**

The weapon blockade in today's Unipolar World  
Trade, finance, arms, blockades; how to be used for the benefit of humanity and peoples.  
13:00 16:45  
Workshop  
English, Danish, Spanish

G,2,39

**The Egyptian Delegation**

To be provided  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,08\*

**Hungarian Folk High School Society**

To be provided  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,3,20\*

**Arc. Peace International**

What does socially responsible architecture and planning mean?  
13:00 14:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,10\*

**Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres**

Women, migration and culture  
13:00 16:45  
Video film  
English, Spanish  
C,2,11\*

**Academy for Educational Development, Inc.**

Youth and Workforce Development  
Reaching from Community to the Global Workplace.  
13:00 14:45  
Workshop  
English  
H,1,42

**FN Forbundet Danish United Nations Association**

Calling the NOG's to Action in world Politics  
15:00 16:45  
Conference  
English  
G,1,35

**The Danish Chechnia Committee & Minority Rights Group Denmark**

Chechnia hearing  
15:00 16:45  
Other  
English, Danish  
D,2,34A

**United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**

Cities in crisis: Responses from the Grassroots and Pavement  
Community inspired and volunteer efforts to cope with urban violence, discrimination, homelessness, drug abuse etc.  
15:00 18:45  
Conference  
English, Spanish  
C,4,33

**Enhedslisten Den rødgrønne fællesliste**

Debt, the World Bank and IMF  
Will be provided  
15:00 16:45  
Conference  
English  
C,2,08\*

**Citizens Disaster Response Center**

Disaster Responses. Communities' Participation in Disaster Management  
Strategies to counter disasters in the least Developed Countries.  
15:00 16:45

Conference

English  
C,3,23\*

**Skolesamvirket Tvind De internationale Efterskoler**

Education of the teenager generation carriers of the future  
International teacher training an important material.  
15:00 16:45  
Other  
English  
C,3,22\*

**Center for Women's Global Leadership**

Introduction to the Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights  
Women and Human Rights.  
15:00 16:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,17\*

**Landsforeningen Ældre Sagen**

Older women in the Western World Potentials and Problems  
1) Life course perspective on poverty, income and health; 2) Prospects for Inter Generational relations; 3) Older Women's network local and global.  
15:00 20:45  
English  
C,2,14\*

**World Student Christian Federation**

Round Table Dis. on emerging paradigms  
Development, Education, Democracy, Women's participation, etc..  
15:00 16:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,07\*

**Global Policy Forum**

Social Development: Does It have a Future in the UN  
Shift of social policy towards the Bretton Woods Institutions can the UN regain control? How?  
15:00 16:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,10\*

**Association Ribat El Fath 'Cellule Enfants'**

Social Integration of Children and Youth in the Unplanned Settlements, Morocco  
Education Social context in poor and unplanned settlements. Problems with regard to urban growth.  
15:00 16:45  
Workshop  
French  
C,3,29\*

**ENDA Tiers Monde (Environment et Developpement).**

The cities: A place where the fight for social development will be challenged  
Urban poverty Social integration of people in urban contexts.  
15:00 20:45  
Workshop  
French  
H,1,40\*

**European Baha'i Business Forum**

The Role of Business in Social Development  
Facilitator: M. Michel Zahrai  
15:00 16:45  
Workshop





- English  
C,2,16\*
- Danish Refugee Council, Int. Council of Voluntary Agencies**  
The Role of NGO Emergency Assistance in Promoting Peace and Reconciliation  
Workshop I + II  
15:00 18:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,13\*
- Støttekomiteen for Tibet**  
Tibet Bureau. Environment and Social Development in Tibet  
The interconnection between social and environmental issues. Tenzin P. Atisha  
15:00 16:45  
Conference  
English  
C,3,31\*
- EuroStep European Solidarity Towards Equal Participat. of People**  
To be provided  
15:00 16:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,18\*
- Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for Advancement of Women**  
Caribbean survival strategies by youth in communities  
Employment and Social Integration.  
17:00 20:45  
Video film  
English, Spanish  
G,2,39
- Transparency International**  
Corruption The Achille's Heel of Development  
The impact of corruption on development and means to counter it.  
17:00 20:45  
Conference  
English  
H,1,40\*
- Association des Villages Moukandi pour L'Environnement et le Dev.**  
Découverte de AVMED au Gabon  
Banque mondiale pour les ONG.  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop
- French  
C,2,09\*
- Development Education Centre**  
Empowering grassroots women to create local financial institutions  
17:00 18:45  
Conference  
English  
C,3,30\*
- Int Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility**  
Ethnic diversity and territorial integration  
17:00 20:45  
Conference  
English  
H,1,42
- Instituto de Promoción de la Integración Social.**  
Experiencias de participacion solidaria, y autogestion en org. populares  
Lesson about administration of funds and resources by popular organisations. The Program pro Bienestar of Argentina.  
17:00 18:45  
Conference  
Spanish  
C,3,20\*
- SAISUMSOBA**  
Exploitation of children and immigration media  
17:00 18:45  
Conference  
French  
C,2,11\*
- Udsyn & Indblik**  
Historie og Rød  
17:00 18:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,07\*
- 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,2,10\*
- Lifeseeing in Denmark**  
Lifeseeing in Denmark  
Interaction. Adult education. Show.
- 17:00 18:45  
Music  
English  
C,2,08\*
- 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,2,18\*
- MFR's Venner i Danmark**  
Små danske NGO'ers rolle i udviklingspolitiken  
Hvorledes kan små danske NGO'er bedst støtte udviklingsbestræbelser i Ulande og hvorledes kan vi trænge igennem den danske offentlighed og det danske bistandssystem.  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop  
Danish  
C,2,12\*
- Tibet Bureau for United Nations Affairs**  
Social development: The Tibetan situation  
Social environment, human rights, children, development etc.  
17:00 18:45  
Conference  
English  
C,3,27\*
- Danske kvindelige lægers Forening Danish Medical Women's Ass.**  
Social Implications of Chronic Stress Syndrome in Women  
Prevention, possibilities for intervention to avoid expulsion from labour market.  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop  
English  
D,2,34A
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**  
SocioCultural Hurdles against Women Socio Economic Rights in Arabia  
Violations of women. Socioeconomic rights attributed to Arab culture  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,3,23\*
- Støttekomiteen for Tibet**  
Støttekomiteen for Tibet. Social Development: The Tibetan Situation  
Social Environment, Human Rights, Children, Development, etc.  
17:00 18:45  
Conference  
English  
C,3,21\*
- World Federalist Resources**  
The Creation of a World Federation  
World Federalism.  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,2,16\*
- Forsvarskomiteé Irans politiske fanger**  
The situation of political prisoners in Iran  
17:00 18:45  
Conference
- English  
C,2,17\*
- Enhedslisten Den rødgrønne fællesliste**  
Unemployment, social conditions and women in the EU  
Will be provided  
17:00 18:45  
Workshop  
English  
C,3,22\*
- Jakob Holt**  
American Pictures STARTS KL.19.00 (7PM) ENDS KL. 23.00 (11 PM)  
Other  
English  
G,1,35
- Kabale Women's Agroforestry Project**  
Empowering women groups to promote community based Agroforestry  
Gender relations and land use. Multipurpose tree production.  
19:00 20:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,10\*
- Perron X Musictheatergroup**  
Existenz  
Morals  
19:00 20:45  
Theatre  
English  
D,1,34
- Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres**  
Juana la Loca, Monolog with Luz Estella Garcia, Colombia  
19:00 20:45  
Theatre  
Spanish  
C,2,08\*
- Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University**  
Meditation as change agent  
Spiritual tools for providing an easier change in the individual and in society  
19:00 20:45  
Conference  
English, Danish  
C,2,18\*
- Netherlands Organisation for Development Cooperation**  
NGO's as Actors of Change  
NGO's experience in Social Development.  
19:00 20:45  
Workshop  
English, Spanish  
C,2,13\*
- International Population & Family Association**  
Research conference on social policy  
19:00 20:45  
Conference  
English  
C,2,07\*
- De Social økologiske Centre Social Ecology Centers of Denmark**  
Social ecology Mobilizing resources from below  
Sustainable development, system regulation or participative action from below? Local empowerment. Local (human) resources.  
19:00 20:45
- Conference  
English  
C,3,27\*
- Lourdes Youth and Community Services, Ltd.**  
Unspoken Truths  
Cultural participation articulating women's experiences across Borders.  
19:00 20:45  
Workshop  
English  
Spanish  
C,2,16\*
- Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for Advancement of Women**  
Purple Dragon, Martial Arts display  
Social Integration.  
19:00 20:45  
Other  
English  
C,2,18\*
- Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University**  
Spiritual Values in Education  
The core of the learning process is to help the individual to find him/herself.  
19:00 20:45  
Workshop  
English, Danish  
C,2,10\*
- Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK**  
Women festival STARTS KL 21.00 (9 PM) ENDS KL 24.00 (12 PM)  
Kronborg  
19:00 20:45  
Other  
D,1,34
- 1æ∞ &&'(((-International Council on Social Welfare**  
Beyond the summit f shared responsibility for peace, human welfare and the future  
Social policies in general, social and economic rights, poverty.  
09:00 f 12:45  
Conference  
English, Danish, Spanish, French  
B,1,05\*
- International Council on Social Welfare**  
Countries in transition focusing on Eastern and Central Europe  
The link between economic and social development. The role and experiences of NGO's in promoting civil society.  
13:00 f 18:45  
Conference  
English, Danish, Spanish, French  
B,1,05\*
- Commitment for empowerment of women.**  
15:00 f 16:45  
Workshop  
English, Danish, Spanish, French  
B,1,05\*
- Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK**  
Women festival STARTS KL 21.00 (9 PM) ENDS KL 24.00 (12 PM)  
19:00 f 20:45  
Other  
B,1,05\*



South Asian rickshaw plies a passenger at the Holmen naval base where the NGO Forum is taking place. Photo: NGO





## The alternative declaration of principles from the organizations gathered at the NGO Forum during the World Summit for Social Development

The draft will be debated Thursday 9 March at 9am in Steelworks

(1) We, representatives of social movements, NGOs and citizens groups participating in the NGO Forum during the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), entered the preparatory process with the expectation that the Summit would address the structural causes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration and would place people at the center of the development process.

(2) While some progress was achieved in a number of areas during the negotiation process, we believe that the basic framework adopted in the draft documents is in contradiction with the objectives of equitable and sustainable social development. The documents' over-reliance on unaccountable "open, free market forces" as a basis for organizing national and international economies contradicts our view that these forces are aggravating rather than alleviating the current global social crises.

(3) It is this contradiction which threatens the realization of the key goals of the Social Summit as articulated by the NGOs in the preparatory process. So, while we will continue to be involved in the international follow up of the Social Summit and leading to the Beijing Conference, we are unable to support the basic thrust of the documents endorsed by the governments at the Social Summit. We are concerned about the failure of the Summit to acknowledge and build upon earlier agreements of the UN-Conferences of Rio, Vienna and Cairo.

(4) Social development can only be achieved if all Human Rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural of every individual and people are fulfilled. We believe that the Summit documents fail to recognize adequately the primacy of Human Rights as a prerequisite for a participatory and meaningful social development for all sections of society and individuals, especially vulnerable groups, women, children, indigenous peoples, the old and people with disabilities. The disregard and failure of states to fulfill the Human Rights according to agreed standards are a major cause of poverty, unemployment and disintegration.

(5) This Declaration follows from the NGO endeavours at the preparatory conference (The Quality Benchmark document), the Oslo-Fjord Declaration, the national and international initiatives carried out in the context of the "50 Years is Enough Campaign", the Madrid Declaration "The Other Voices of the Planet", the Brussels "IMF, World Bank Enough Campaign", (and others to be added).

(6) The dominant neo-liberal system as

a universal model for development has failed. This system has its roots in the subordination of people and nature to the search for profit, colonial conquests, decimation of indigenous peoples and predatory wars. Today it manifests itself in the concentration of economic, political, military, technological and institutional power in the hands of few transnational corporations and financial institutions.

(7) A system which places growth above all other goals, including human values and well-being, wrecks economies rather than regenerating them. It creates incentives for capital to seek the lowest wages, deregulation at national level and minimum accountability. It generates jobless growth, unemployment, derogates the rights of workers and undermines the role of trade unions. The current unequal distribution in the use of natural resources between and within countries, generates social apartheid, encourages racism, civil strife and war, undermines the rights of women and indigenous peoples.

(8) Militarization and war cause enormous waste of human, natural and financial resources. Inequality and pauperization, political and social violence and violent conflict grows leading to a growing death toll and an increasing number of refugees and displaced.

(9) The debt burden is unsustainable. It is draining countries of the resources they need to promote economic and social development. Structural adjustment programmes imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have consistently undermined economic and social progress, by suppressing wages, undermining livelihoods of small producers through cuts in credit, and placing social services out of reach of the poor. In dismantling basic state services, these programmes have shifted an even greater burden on to women who care for the nutrition, health, well-being and harmony of the family as well as community relations.

(10) We reject the notion of reducing social policy in developing countries, to a "social safety net", as embodied in the WSSD documents. This proposal is predicated on the withdrawal of the State from one of its fundamental responsibilities. The slashing of social expenditures in the North as a means of reducing the budget deficit, has also undermined many of the achievements of the Welfare State.

(11) The dominant development model and Structural Adjustment Policies are imposed by the Bretton Woods Institutions which are undemocratic and unaccountable. These institutions and the World Trade Organization

make decisions on economic issues on the basis of the wealth and power of the G-7 nations, and the UN Security Council on political and security matters through excluding the participation of people.

(12) Moreover, we cannot accept the official documents' endorsement of the new trade order as defined by the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and Articles of Agreement on the establishment of the World Trade Organization. The documents do not consider that trade liberalization through the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and the World Trade Organization creates more losers than winners and the negative impacts will be disastrous for poorer and weaker countries. The latter violates the fundamental rights of peoples to sustainable development, particularly in areas of foreign investment, biodiversity and intellectual property rights.

By rejecting the prevailing global development model, we do not pretend to seek one new universal model. Rather, it is a question of innovating and levelling global answers to community needs, promoting the skills and energy of women in full equality with men, benefiting from valuable traditions as well as new technologies.

In the light of the foregoing we consider the following conditions must be fulfilled to realize development:

### AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL:

- Governmental and intergovernmental decisions should be built up by full participation of social partners, citizens organization and communities at all stages of the decision making process.

- The community's capacity to protect its own natural base must be restored. Greater equality is also the key to ecological sustainability.

- The keys to effective community development are equity, democracy, the practice of the holism that is inherent in community life, and the sharing of knowledge through building new communication networks.

- The role of women in society and decision-making is essential to the realization of the values of human development. Their full participation requires the transformation of gender relations including the participation of men in the care for children, elderly and people with disabilities.

### AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

- Governments must make land reform the basis for sustainable rural economies, and ensure access to credit for the poor so that people can create their own employment and build their own communities.

- It is legitimate for Southern Governments to protect their people,

especially regarding food security and domestic production, from the effects of deregulated and liberalized trade. It is more-over their legitimate right to regulate the market and take fiscal or legal measure for the purpose of combatting inequalities among their peoples. Africa should be given preferential treatment in this respect.

- Recognition and respect of ancestral land rights of indigenous peoples and their right to self-determination is an imperative to ensure their existence as peoples and cultures.

- A new partnership in North-South relations requires placing the cultures, development options and long-term strategies of developing countries first, not those of the representatives of the North.

- Governments should institute environmental accounting systems in order to measure the status of their natural capital and monitor its use.

- Governments should commit itself to facilitate an increased space for open and free social dialogue, in order to promote democratic institutions.

- Governments should commit themselves to reduce military spending so that it does not exceed its spending on education and health, and increase the conversion of military resources to peaceful purposes. Military spending should be reduced by 3% per year, with this "peace dividend" being distributed equally between a national and a global demilitarization fund for social development.

- Governments should develop sustainable employment programmes, in full consultation with trade unions and employers organizations.

### AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

- It must be recognized that cultural diversity is the principal source of new strength, new actors, new social systems and sustainable development.

Regional and international organizations should encourage diplomacy, peaceful negotiations and mediation and promote institutions for research and training in non-violent conflict resolution.

- Governments must commit themselves to develop a national strategy and implementation plan to fulfill their responsibilities under the Human Rights covenants. They must regularly report about their progress, in particular their efforts regarding vulnerable groups' access to legal procedures. Complaint procedures should be created for individuals by the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as an adequate monitoring system under the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

- The conditionalities imposed through the SAPs as the dominant basis for North-South relations, should be substituted by a political dialogue

- Global production and consumption must stay within the limits of the carrying capacity of the earth. Political regulation is mandatory in order to avoid that the global market system will continue to reward irresponsible behaviour which cares nothing for the household, community, nation and humankind.

- Effective international machinery to promote renewable energy should be installed in the UN system.

- Work to complete the Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should be urgently resumed. (more?)

- The international community should enforce the application of a tax on all speculative foreign exchange transactions (Tobin tax) of, say, 0.5%, the revenue of which should go into a global social development fund with adequate control mechanism.

- Between the Copenhagen and Beijing summits, we demand an independent investigation and audit of World Bank and IMF performance. In the aftermath of the financial collapse in Mexico, it is essential for the international community to avoid future disasters which could result from the inefficiency and incompetence of the Bretton Woods institutions as well as their lack of understanding of the development process.

We acknowledge that existing power relations do not permit the realization of these goals. We, representatives of the global civil society, call upon governments and political leaders to recognize that the existing system has opened the most dangerous chasm in human history, between an affluent, overconsuming minority and an impoverished majority of humankind in the South but also, increasingly, in the North. No nation so dramatically divided has ever remained stable; no frontier or force can withstand the despair and resentment which a failed system is now actively generating.

We do not have much time. We are on the point of leaving to our children a world we would not wish to live in ourselves. But we do find a tremendous inspiration and hope in the fact that the global NGO community taking part in the Social Summit in such a massive way can agree on a common understanding of and strategy for the lasting improvement of humankind and nature. With shared responsibility we can draw from the present crisis the creativity needed to make a world community that really works. That is our common commitment when leaving the Copenhagen Summit.





# The Grassroots Strike Back

# Dialogue necessity for commitment

By Michael Bilde

Less than a week ago, Chilean UN ambassador Juan Somavia, the man behind the preparations of the Social Summit, used his opening speech at the NGO Forum to thank the grassroots for "making the draft declaration and plan of action better."

Better, perhaps. But far from good enough to satisfy most NGOs. The alternative Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action, scheduled to be completed and signed by most of the big NGO groupings for handing over to the world leaders this weekend, unites grassroots of all kinds and of all the world's regions in protest against the work being finished just five kilometers away from Holmen at the official UN Summit.

The proposed Copenhagen Declaration has its roots in a number of earlier documents, most prominently the so-called Oslo Fjord Declaration signed in February 1995 by 14 prominent NGOs from all parts of the world. As in the Oslo Fjord Declaration, the NGO declaration attacks the neoliberal markets for having failed as a model for development. It rejects the official documents' over reliance on "unaccountable open, free market forces"; it is against the notion of reducing social policy in developing countries to a "social safety net" and calls for a democratization and increased accountability of the World Bank and the IMF.

"The official documents support the neoliberal agenda and a Bretton Woods system that does not take into account the social consequences of its policies," says Xabier

**Alternative Declaration.** The alternative Copenhagen Declaration is "based on realities rather than manipulation."



NGOs turned up in large numbers for the first real joint NGO meeting Tuesday to discuss the alternative declaration.

Photo: Darius Dombek

Gorostiaga, Rector of the Central American University in Nicaragua and a member of the commission preparing the alternative declaration.

## Need for Change

The alternative Copenhagen Declaration attacks the new World Trade Organization's trade liberalization for creating more losers than winners and it proposes the introduction of the so-called Tobin tax: a levy of 0.5 per cent on all speculative foreign exchange transactions that should go into a global social development fund.

"Our declaration challenges

the problems at the roots of the social development crises we have now. There is a need for structural changes," says Victoria Tauli-Corpus of the Third World Network, consisting of NGOs in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The alternative declaration does acknowledge that there is need for a change in the existing power relations if the goals set up are to be realized. Says Yash Tandon of the International South Group Network, South Africa: "We are discussing issues on the basis of reality rather than manipulation of the powers as at Bella Center. Although we

(the NGOs) come from different backgrounds and different countries, we have one thing in common: the rejection of the existing international world order."

"It's an incredible phenomenon that thousands of people from so different places - poor as well as rich - seek an agreement. I hope the document will mobilize people between Copenhagen and Beijing (the UN Summit on women in September 1995)," says Xabier Gorostiaga.

## Up to date?

Not all NGOs think the declaration is adequate, though. "The drafting committee has not taken into account that a lot of things have happened since the Oslo Fjord Declaration was signed," believes M. L. R. de Albuquerque of the Center for Higher Education in the Public Interest.

And does the declaration not undermine the efforts made by those NGOs that participated in the three Preparatory Committee meetings?

"I think the NGOs have done quite a good job at the Prep Com meetings, but many of the things that we brought up are missing in the official documents," says Michael Windfuhr of Germany's International Human Rights Organization for the Right to Feed Oneself (FIAN).

Despite making their own declaration as a protest against the official documents, the NGOs will continue to influence the political process taking place at the UN Summit. But they want to show that they, too, can speak with a common voice. As Juan Antonio Blanco of Cuba's Centro Felix Varela argues: "At the Bella Center, the governments of the world are

To many speak in a vacuum here. We must have a dialogue between all the groups involved in social development, says Lilian Chatterjee, ICSW, about the NGO Forum.

Photo: Thomas Villars

By Bjarne Nørum Andersen

**Development.** Too much talk and too little dialogue. That is one of the problems at the NGO Forum, according to Lilian Chatterjee, director of communications at the ICSW. The different groups meet and reach agreements without making a commitment to the actors in the field. The ICSW, International Council on Social Welfare, will try to obtain this commitment at a conference Thursday.

Mahbub ulHaq from UNDP, ministers from Denmark, South Africa, the Netherlands and Poland will discuss, together with NGO's and representatives from private companies, the shared responsibilities for a scared world and economic and social development in Eastern and Central Europe.



"We take the name NGO Forum literally and create a forum. A lot of people at Holmen have no access to the Bella Center. At our conference they can raise their concerns and get into a direct dialogue", points out Lilian Chatterjee.

She stresses, that the speakers are not enemies. "The irony is, that all the speakers have a basic commitment to social development. The difference is their perspective. Our hope is to achieve a better understanding so that the NGOs will be listened to and that they learn something. We have a shared responsibility, so let's have proper exchange here", the spokesman says.

The allday long conference is being held at the Conference Hall in the Global Village and starts at 0900 today.

# Nobody talks unemployment

By Bjarne Nørum Andersen

**Unemployment.** The world lacks labour. Or is there a huge surplus labour force? The UN estimates that 120 million people throughout the world are affected by unemployment.

These figures are high on the agenda at the Summit at the Bella Center, where unem-

ployment is one of the three main topics. At Holmen, the situation is quite different.

Looking through the long list of workshops and conferences, the subject of unemployment and creating jobs is hardly mentioned. When stated, it is not as the main subject.

The situation at the official stands in the Global Village and Steelworks is even worse.

In the myriad of good intentions and messages, no one focuses on unemployment. Not even the Danish labour unions and the Social Democratic party. They only talk about working conditions and the welfare system.

## Political problem

Asked by NGO News, everyone agrees on the importance

of solving the problem. They have their personal views on the subject, but point out that unemployment is not the main topic of their organizations. It is a political problem, they say.

From the Oecumenical Church, the message is that we are all equal, and since jobs are a good, we should share them. The Family believes that love is most important, and that

jobs are a part of making the world better, even though the issue is out of their reach.

Quite another solution comes from the South Korean organisation CCEJ. Korea has an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent and they blame the welfare models for making people choose not to work, creating a less dynamic society.

## Talking outside

Though it did not take place at Holmen, some of the most influential NGO's have debated unemployment.

During last weekend, an international forum of unions discussed global employment at a seminar at the Danish Parliament, and international organisations of employers put the creation of jobs on the agenda. Ironically, they discussed the issues at separate meetings.

At Holmen today, five unemployed Europeans will present their views on the Summit. Not in public, but at a press conference.





An NGO Forum supplement

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## Zapatistas demand peace based on justice and dignity

By Koen Greven

**Social exclusion.** Mexico just christened the boat with a bottle of champagne after signing the NAFTA agreements with Canada and the United States. Mexico was seen as an example of a third world country with a solid economy, who was making the step towards the economic superpowers.

The government had forgotten to take care of just one thing: its native people. And so the Zapatistas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas started an uprising last year against the politicians of Mexico City. Now, a stable political and economic situation in Mexico seems nothing more than a dream.

The Zapatistas, named after revolutionary Emilio Zapata, tell their version of the Chiapas case along with Mexican NGOs at Holmen. "More than half of the Mexican population live below poverty level. The crisis in Chiapas is connected to the social development of the whole nation. The limit was reached for a lot of people. The Zapatistas made the miserable situation of Chiapas visible. We want to promote and find a peaceful solution based on justice and dignity. The government of president Zedillo speaks about political agreements, but in reality they are looking for a military solution", says Marcos Arana from Chiapas, representing the NGO Network for Peace.

### Criminalization

A step backwards in the peace process was made on February 9th. Zedillo sent out a warrant of arrest for Marcos, the

military leader of the Zapatistas. "Marcos was a partner in the peace dialogues, but is now seen as a criminal. The government is abusing their political control. They use dirty tricks against the Zapatistas. Jorge Santiago, member of an NGO which fights for economic development, was arrested as one of the leaders of the Zapatistas. In reality, he has nothing to do with them. The indigenous people want to protect their land, but the government marginalizes them. It is like the oppression of the colonialists towards the natives", stresses Luis Lopez Vera, of the Promotion of Popular Development.

The future for Chiapas is not very hopeful. "The Mexican army is closing in on the Indians. A lot of people are living without water and food, because of the food blockades. Not everybody in Chiapas wants to fight for their rights, some go back to their



Marcos Arana from Chiapas, member of the NGO network for Peace.

Photo: Annika Martins

villages. They are under pressure from both the Zapatistas and the government. A fair peace dialogue is the only

solution for everybody", states Lopez Vera.

## NGO OF THE DAY

### Fundacion Polar

The Venezuelan brewery Polar has its own foundation to support social programs. The company wants to help Venezuela by contributing actively to the creation of a society with a harmonious relationship between human beings and their environment. Fundacion Polar began its social activities in 1977, when the State admitted its limitations to take care of social developments. "We support eight different programs all over the country. Education and health care are the areas where help is most needed. We give financial help to public schools and provide training facilities for teachers. Promoting health awareness and preventing diseases are the main goals of our health care programs", says Leonor de Mendoza, president of the Fundacion Polar.

Developing programs are needed more than ever in Venezuela. "We are suffering from an economic crisis right now. The government is doing what it can, it gives private companies, like Fundacion Polar, special income tax rebates to deduct a certain amount of money to development aid. This Summit must be used by us and the government to take more steps forward", states Leonor de Mendoza.

KG

## Africa cries for changes

By Bjarne Nørum Andersen

**Population.** Rapid population growth, stagnating or declining economies, lack of jobs and huge debts. Roughly, the situation in the Sub Saharan African countries reads like a

worstcase story in a book on economics for beginners.

The continent is stuck in a vicious circle, according to professor Aderanti Adepoju from the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) in Senegal, Africa is dying for changes. In an interview with NGO News, he points out two

major factors contributing to the situation today.

"The Special Adjustment Programmes (SAP) from the IMF has complicated the situation. By demanding heavy cuts in the employment, governmental spending, devaluation and so on. As a result, highly skilled people migrate, others can

not afford education and health care and political instability is the case", says Aderanti Adepoju.

But he does not only blame the IMF. The lack of good government also has its share of the burden for today's situation. Dictatorships and juntas have been allowed to govern, often supported by external forces, meaning western governments.

Aderanti Adepoju points out some goals for the changes, but no specific way of achieving them. Most important is to create political stability, which he sees as the basis to attract investments, create jobs and growth. In order to achieve effective government, he stresses the importance of a tight cooperation between governments, NGOs and researchers. In this process, the international community plays an important role. This also includes the IMF, which must change its uniformed and rigid system, and look more specifically at the conditions in the individual countries.

The solution to the population problem is information and education. "We must reduce family sizes and change attitudes and culture, not by legislation, but by information and education", he explains.

If those conditions are fulfilled, then professor Aderanti Adepoju believes in a positive future for the Sub Saharan African countries: "They have the potential to feed themselves. What they need is access to finances and technology".



**Dance.** The Greenlandic dancer, Benedicte Smith, performed Greenlandic Spiritual dance at the Global Village on Sunday. She was a third of the dance show "Three Cultures Meet", along with the Randi Patterson Company from Denmark. All of the performers, though very different in style and tradition, shared a strong physical expressiveness, singing and making cries. The show can still be seen on March 9th at 2000 at "Dansescenen", Østerfælled Torv 34, 2100 Copenhagen Ø. Ticket reservation: 35 43 58 58. Tickets cost Dkr. 75, groups of over 10, Dkr. 50.

Photo: IKON/Flemming Andersen

IE

## Baha'is believe in trust-worthy business

By Koen Greven

**Business Forum.** "The globe is a highly chaotic market place. People must believe in each other. Without trust you cannot create an environment where people want to work hard", says Dorothy Marcic, an American Baha'i who teaches at the Prague School of Economics. At the NGO Forum she gives workshops about the basic values for a prosperous world.

The Baha'i society believes that economic problems to a large extent reflect the political and spiritual state of the world. The economic principles of the Baha'is can be seen in the light of their general beliefs. They argue that people of whatever country, race, or class should be treated equally. Baha'is believe that the world's population will become a united community, diverse in its individual characteristics. There should be one shared world civilization and a world government should have a peacekeeping role.

Companies should make it a policy that every employee is equally important, states Dorothy Marcic. "When people are threatened by all kinds of measures they don't work well. If you do business based on lying and cheating it will work against you in the long term. If you don't respect someone, he won't respect you either. What goes around, comes around."

The American thinks that a company won't run well if the customer is treated poorly. "Business should be customer focused instead of task focused. In the former Eastern European countries, like the Czech Republic, they were not used to treating their clients well. Employers earned their money anyway. McDonalds opened a restaurant in Prague and taught the Czechs how to work customer focused. It is a success because they treat their employees in a respectable way, which influences the working atmosphere. The manager is used as a coach who can motivate people. Business does not work if you only think about the profits, first you have to think about the structure of the company. Just as in the Baha'i belief, trust and unity are the keywords", stresses



Latin NGOs in deep gloom

## Summit's rejection disappoints delegates

by Marcela Valente and  
Juan Carlos Rocha

The mood among Latin American NGOs was one of deep gloom yesterday when their governments said a firm 'no' to their calls for changes in the summit's draft declaration and action plan.

"We're frustrated because the NGOs' participation in this summit has not received the attention we deserve," said a Peruvian activist. "The

governments and NGOs are talking at cross purposes."

Latin America's NGO and official delegates met yesterday in a last ditch effort to bridge the gap between them. It didn't work, even though some government delegates were apologetic.

"I am sorry that there are defects in the document up for approval at the summit, but I think that at this stage of the game it's impossible to introduce observations," said a member of Ecuador's offi-

al delegation

He said the draft declaration had been under discussion for a year and "even at the last precom in January it was impossible to add any new ideas to it."

The NGOs have been campaigning for substantial changes to the draft. For example, where it refers to structural adjustment with a "human face", they want to add: "one which includes the elimination of the social and economic imbalances caused by the present concentration of wealth nationally and internationally and not only the macro-economic imbalances."

"Their proposals are just but since we have been in on the direct discussions, we know it's impossible to change the document now," said Brazilian Ambassador Luis Pablo Lindenber.

Instead, he said, Latin American governments and NGOs should join hands to ensure that gains made at previous summits are not wiped out in Copenhagen.

"There are some G-77 countries that are trying to destroy the gains we made at the Vienna Human Rights Conference and the Population Summit in Cairo," Lindenber told the NGOs. He did not elaborate.

Now the Latin Americans are hoping that they will be able to work together and achieve more after Copenhagen.

They will soon get their first chance to do since the NGOs and official delegations agreed to meet on May 4 in Buenos Aires to seek ways of jointly following up Copenhagen's agreements.

## Eco-groups urge a 'social audit'

From decaying cities in the south, rising toxic gas emissions in the North to rising sea levels that threaten to engulf small pacific islands, environmentalists warn the time is nigh for a social audit.

The Social Summit bringing together the largest number of world leaders ever, presents a good opportunity to reflect on the link between social development, energy alternatives and the environment.

Since the beginning of industrialisation, carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has risen 25 percent and the average global average temperature increased 0.7 percent according to the research institute German Maax Planck.

As a direct result of gas emissions into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal - predominantly in the developed world - sea levels began rising twice as fast as expected drawing an outcry from affected island nations.

"Governments of the Pacific island countries have since 1992 consistently stated that climate change and sea level rises are priority issues to us because they can mean the premature end to our sisters and brothers on the low-lying atolls," says Ratu Jo Nacola head of the Fiji delegation.

Nacola urges countries of the North to change their production patterns. But poor countries have no power to compel them to perform these social obligations. They hope the summit draws more attention to their situation.

"Like the Rio Earth summit in 1992, the social summit is about life chances on this planet ... about living individuals and how their relations can be re-arranged to make a better future social order," says Isagani Serrano of a Philippine NGO called Rural Reconstruction Movement.

"The poor are long in need of expanding their opportunities, they too want to breathe clean air, to have enough safe water and enjoy the best of a healthy environment."

And the summit's draft proposal at least acknowledges that shortsighted consumption and production patterns are contributing to the unsustain-

able use of natural resources and environmental degradation.

However environmentalists say this is just lip-service. Getting binding commitments from governments is still a long way away.

Yet, given the commitment an energy switch is not impossible says Rene Karrotki of the International Network for Sustainable Energy a Danish NGO that promotes renewable energy.

Already in India biogas plants are improving the lives of millions and in Brazil alcohol from sugar cane is substituting gasoline in motor vehicles.

Rene says given the commitment "it is realistic to think of a modern society based on renewable energy within the next 50 to 100 years."

"But while we see the need for the development of responsible sustainable energy the summit talks about blind economic growth," says Karrotki.

## Green prose prize worth 100,000 dollars

A recent survey conducted by the U.S. President's Council on Sustainable Development found the respondents to be about equally divided over whether sustainable development was anti-growth or anti-environment.

In an effort to increase understanding, the Earth Pledge Foundation is sponsoring a year-long Essay Contest and International Internet Dialogue with 100,000 dollars in prizes.

The contest applies a total approach to conflict resolution: to clearly define the issues, and to get the facts. Another goal is to produce information for possible solutions.

As the aim is to open discussion not only to representatives of large groups of people's organisations, but also to individuals, the Internet's World Wide Web is the obvious medium.

The Earth Pledge Foundation has established a Web "site" capable of handling over 25 users at any one time. It will establish links to and

from many of the cultural, social, and environmental organisations which have also established Web sites.

Its alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme has made it possible to contribute essays and comments by mail through UNEP regional offices around the world. Of course, winning essays will be available for viewing and downloading.

The contest is not an end in itself, but rather a means of framing the issues in agreement and dispute and reviewing the relevant facts. Users will be able to share ideas and information with one another, in a managed debate that will help determine whether or not sustainable development is really the answer to the intensifying conflict between proponents of economic development and ecology.

\* For more information, contact Leslie Hoffman, EPF executive director, in New York at 212 688-2216.



Photo: Klaus Holting

## Breaking down barriers

It is the barriers that complicate Ranga Mupindu's life. The physical and the attitudinal which reaffirm he is disabled and in a wheelchair.

"Barriers that are deliberately created to further worsen my problem ... problems such as accessibility to public buildings," the executive director of Disabled People's of Zimbabwe told Terra Viva.

"I'll give you a special example," he said. "When I arrived at the hotel I went into my room only to realise

that my chair could not go into the toilet.

"Do you know what I had to do? One of my colleagues had to run around to the hospitals to look for a smaller chair from the children's ward and this is the one I am using now," he laughed.

"Whenever you are seen, you are seen as somebody who is a problem just because (society) never expects a disabled person to be happy and smiling," Mupindu, representing the coalition of Zimbabwe's at the summit,

stressed. His criticism underscores the importance of a report to be released today by UNESCO on 'Overcoming Obstacles to the Integration of Disabled People'. The 32-year-old Mupindu however is facing fresh challenges in Copenhagen.

"I'd like to register my unhappiness with the whole preparation leading to this very important summit," he said. Mupindu also took a swipe at NGOs for not putting disability on the agenda at the global meeting.

## Arab NGOs short of funds

Increasing desertification, scarcity or misuse of water resources and a food security gap are making countries in the Arab world poorer.

Forty million out of the 200 million people in Arab countries live below the poverty line. Sixty million adults are illiterate.

Between the 1960s and 1980s, the gap in terms of per capita income levels between those living in oil-producing nations and those without the precious commodity widened considerably - a trend that is still continuing.

While the average per capita income per individual is 480 dollars in Sudan, it is 15,770 dollars in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In addition to wealth disparity, these countries have high fertility and maternal mortality rates. Arab countries have the youngest population on

the planet - 50 percent below 15 years.

In Morocco, the Association for the Protection of the Family, a non-profit organisation, is trying to create innovative projects to tackle some of these problems.

Located in Yacoub El Mansour, a poor district of the capital, Rabat, the Association organizes training programmes to target girls and young women.

"With this, we try to give them a second chance to continue the school and reach the secondary level," said Youss Masmoudi, a young woman who came to Copenhagen to represent this Association at the Summit for Social Development.

Like many other newly established NGOs in the Arab countries, Masmoudi's organization is also giving a second chance to the hun-

dreds of young people unemployed despite the fact that they have completed their university education.

Yasser Mohsen, who works with a youth organization in Lebanon, noted the places in the Arab world with the most successful experience in activities by non-governmental organisations were Palestine and Lebanon: places characterised either by the absence of real authority, or crisis due to war.

Under the peace and reconstruction process, the NGOs continued the social role they played in providing services and performing essential administrative tasks normally done by the government.

Now they were at a crossroads: would the new authorities give them space and benefit from their experience, or displace them in the reconstruction process?





Small islands, big problems

## Feted in Rio and Cairo, ignored in Copenhagen

by Kalinga Seneviratne and Johanna Son

At the Earth summit in Rio and the Population summit in Cairo, the small island nations of the South Pacific had their say. In Copenhagen you'd need a magnifying glass to see them.

In fact, in Cairo, the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) was elected by Southern NGOs to address the plenary session of the summit on their behalf.

PIANGO is nowhere in sight in Copenhagen. And the South Pacific is the only region in the world which is not sending a head of state to address the plenary this week.

However, Senator Paula Satutu, a member of the Fiji delegation, told Terra Viva that this did not reflect a lack of interest on the part of the South Pacific, but rather a lack of donor support to assist in travel costs for South Pacific delegates so they could cover the great distances involved. A roundtrip economy fare ticket from Vanuatu to Copenhagen is \$ 3,000.

### Funds

"For Cairo, we all had money given to us by donor agencies to attend the conference," said Satutu. "It was very difficult to get funding to come here."

Donors may be saving dollars for Beijing, which is closer. But he was concerned that no one was able to fund PIANGO to attend Copenhagen despite the important role played by the grouping at previous conferences.

Despite their small size and relative obscurity in the global political equation, the islands of the Pacific have special problems which - combined with the vulnerability imposed by size - should have given them special attention here.

For size and isolation have not sheltered the Pacific islands from the impact of



globalisation of the world economy. The 6.7 million Pacific islanders make up only 0.1 percent of world population.

But their growing entanglement with the global scene has brought, along with some benefits in employment and foreign investments, a way of life that could threaten native traditions that underpin the region's social fabric.

"There has much marginalisation and it's affecting our traditions and cultures, which have been our traditional survival kits," said Koroseta To'o of the Civil Liberties Union in Western Samoa, a country of 160,000.

Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have tried clamping down on logging, risking objection from local folk who benefit from jobs and schools or roads built by these firms.

In the Pacific, one child in five is malnourished and 40 percent of children fail to get eight years of primary schooling. Average growth rates have been sluggish at 2.1 percent from 1980 to 1990 as prices of primary exports have fallen.

Yet, Alfred Sasako, Information Officer of the Suva-based South Pacific Forum (SPF) secretariat, said: "We are concerned that we are not given much notice here," Satutu complained. "I have been to many conferences and this is the only one where the word Pacific never figured anywhere."

## Think globally, act globally

International consumer protection organisations yesterday said their concerns had fallen through the cracks at the Social Summit.

"Consumers are the other side of every business. Consumer protection is a very important dimension and all governments should implement guidelines adopted by the U.N. General Assembly," Maria Hurtado of Consumer International (CI) said. Those guidelines are 10-years-old.

"All services that used to be there for the poor are no longer taken care of by the state. The consumers movement has, therefore, emerged to stand for the rights of the disadvantaged consumers."

Amadou Cheik of CI told Terra Viva.

CI groups more than 200 consumer unions in 80 countries. The London-based organisation, holding a workshop parallel to the Social Summit, has stressed that consumer protection should be included in the conference's programme of action.

Consumers in Latin America are in the same predicament, notes Jose Vargas Niello, the CI regional director.

Emphasising the CI demand for active participation in the summit, Niello said: "It's no longer valid to think globally and act locally. This must change now. We have to think globally and act globally."

## Oxfam handbook for NGOs

The three volumes of 'The Oxfam Handbook of Development and Relief', released Tuesday in Copenhagen weigh nearly one kg.

But the omnibus compilation of development theory and facts will turn out to be a well-thumbed addition to the bookshelves of development professionals, journalists and NGOs.

Based on the more than half a century experience of the British agency in over 70 countries, the handbook is a lucid guide to subjects ranging from global debt, trade and their environmental impact, economic and social empowerment, human rights to choosing the right computer systems, vehicles and their proper use by NGOs.

Chapters one to three of the first volume set out the principles underlying Oxfam's

work and the authors recommend that they be read together with sections dealing with specific issues.

A 'practical approaches' section is a guide to the best practices in specific fields and contains examples of Oxfam interventions in that area.

These range from bee keeping, soil and water conservation to tackling iodine deficiency. NGO managers are also advised against monopolising the use of staff vehicles and donor agencies asked to ensure against gender biases in vehicle use.

"It is common for men to monopolise vehicles either because they are in positions of seniority, or because of cultural assumptions or prejudices against women drivers," says the section on managing vehicle use by development agencies.

Sustainable development that works

## Role-model development in Central America

by Marcela Valente

Francisco Ceto is a Mayan from Guatemala from whom sustainable development - the ubiquitous buzzword at international conferences - finally means something.

Ceto's community in the highlands of Central America has organised itself to set self-sustaining projects into motion in former conflict areas.

Ceto heads a community group made up of more than 300 rural producers' associations, municipal governments and NGOs which gets help from a novel project that lends money to small enterprises and producers.

The Guatemalan farmer is one of many beneficiaries of Development Programme for Displaced People, Refugees and Repatriated Persons of Central America (known by its Spanish acronym PRODERE).

The project is being touted as a role model development scheme for rural upliftment in the continent and is now being replicated in countries like Bosnia and Tunisia.

It was discussed at a seminar

organised by the Danish Foreign Ministry on new forms of development cooperation at the Social Summit in Copenhagen this week.

Judging from the kudos a scheme run in Central America got from UNDP administrator Gus Speth, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias and Francisco Aloisi, Italy's Director-General for Cooperation, PRODERE gets high marks for being a cost-effective development project.

Speth called it a success for international cooperation. Arias termed it "a new development cooperation model that can be initiated by other nations". PRODERE was launched in 1989 with support from the Italian government and UNDP.

"We are proud of PRODERE and sure that we can put forward this successful experience as a contribution to the objectives of the summit," Aloisi said. The projects brief was to back reconstruction efforts in Central America following a peace accord signed by the region's presidents in 1987.

It has helped resettle refuge-

es and displaced persons in countries that have been affected by civil war - El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The programme, which ends this year, cost a total of 115 million dollars and has benefited 75 percent of its original target group of two million people, organised in more than 1,000 development committees at various levels.

The 15 million dollars in loans which it has given out created or consolidated 37,000 jobs.

PRODERE has also provided legal assistance and title deeds to nearly 170,000 people. Its track record further includes rebuilding bridges, cleaning up the environment, restoring water supply systems and helping to make six percent of the area's adult population literate.

Speth said that by demonstrating its capacity to reduce poverty, diminish social conflict and avert upheavals, it was a coherent contribution to the targets of the summit.

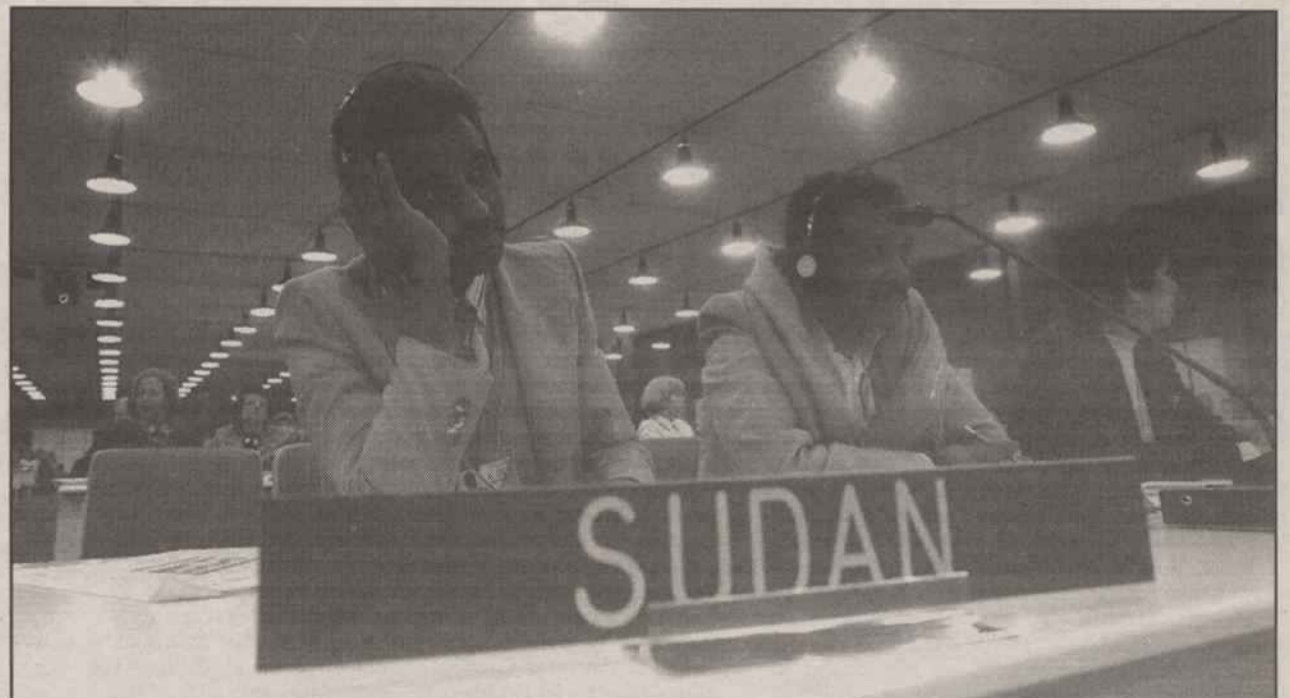
Its success stands to benefit other regions of the world, according to Aloisi, who inaugurated yesterday's seminar.

"PRODERE was an isolated initiative that taught us much about cooperation. Now we want to spread it around so that there are many 'proderes'," he said.

"From the results of this project, we are going to work less with our bureaucracy and more with the NGOs and the U.N. agencies," the Italian official told Terra Viva. That was shortly before he and Speth headed for the Bella centre to sign a memorandum of understanding on a PRODERE replication that will benefit Bosnia and Tunisia, and could be extended to other African nations.

1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias stressed the need to contribute to social development by demilitarising all countries and using the money thus saved for social development.

But he also noted that while the developed nations lend the less developed ones more than 50 billion dollars a year, the Third World spends 160 billion dollars on debt service payments.



The Sudan delegation. Picture Klaus Holsting



## Algerian women fearful Sympathy not enough for victims of crisis

Sympathy and solidarity are overflowing for Algerian women, but the means to help those whose lives are threatened by the violence in the troubled North African country lag far behind their needs.

"We need money and housing," said Fatiya, who is on duty every Saturday when the support group Pluri-Elles receives at its offices in Paris, Algerian women in need of legal advice or material assistance or just an attentive ear, reports IPS in Paris.

According to Fatiya, the stream continues of Algerian women seeking refuge in France from death threats at home, and distress calls keep pouring in at groups like Pluri-Elles for one kind of help or another.

Several human rights organisations have complained that not only have French authorities been stringent in delivering visas to Algerians, they also do not allow them to work. Once in France, Algerians are granted three-month residence permits that must be renewed each time.

### Death threats

"There is no guarantee the residence permits will be renewed," moaned Samila. Her lifetime's savings fast depleting, Samila has come to Pluri-Elles to inquire if there is any offer of work. "Whatever kind of work," said Samila, formerly a businesswoman in Algeria.

Last November, Samila suddenly began receiving death threats by telephone. Terrified, she was in France by December. "The voices threatened to kill me, to rape me. They harass women who work, who go out by themselves or do not wear the clothing they prescribe. If you are

### In need of homes, jobs and especially safety

by Angeline Oyog

not one of them, you are their enemy."

Women's groups estimate that at least 356 Algerian women have been assassinated since 1993 by Islamic extremists. Women have been the targets of radicals angered by their refusal to obey such orders as to wear the veil, or to stop working or going to school.

Some believe that at least 30,000 people have died since elections were cancelled and conflict erupted between the Algerian army backed authorities and militant Islamic groups in 1991.

"They have exceptional courage, where displays of resistance are as simple and commonplace as merely stepping out of the house or bringing the children to school," said Sylvie Jan, president of the International Democratic Federation of Women.

In Algeria, women have long protested the 1984 Family Code, they denounce as keeping women as 'minors' under male authority. "This is the common lot of women everywhere, even in countries that claim to be democratic," said Baya Benyahia, of AYDA women's association.

According to Wassyla Tamzali, in charge of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) programme for women, the best way to break the resistance of indigenous people in Latin America has been to rape their women.

Recent reports from Algeria have also been speaking of the abduction of young girls,

sometimes before the very eyes of their families, to become the "temporary wives" of Islamic radicals.

Sequestered in houses, the women are made to cook, to wash the men's clothes or to sew. Interviewed by the Algerian Assembly of Women Democrats, 17-year-old Ourda said that where she was brought to, the youngest was barely 12 years old. All of them had been raped, and some were killed.

In a special report, the human rights group Amnesty International pointed to the existence of the Organisation of Free Young Algerians, an anti-Islamist organisation which has begun threatening to kill civilians.

### Veil

According to Amnesty, after 17-year-old Katia Bengana was killed in February 1994 for not wearing the veil, the organisation had threatened to kill 20 veiled women and 20 "bearded fundamentalists" for every woman killed for not wearing the veil.

"Useless that in Algeria, a woman can be killed whether she wears the veil or not," remarked Amnesty.

Accounts of what is being done to young girls is tormenting Nadia who fled to France in January after seeing death threats splashed on her walls.

Because French authorities would not give visas to all her children, Nadia left with only one of three children in tow, leaving the two older ones with their grandparents.

### Cried

News from home speak of threats against the children she had left behind and Nadia has sought the help of Pluri-Elles to bring the rest of her children to France.

"They said that since I have left, my children will pay. I'm especially afraid for my teenage daughter, so pretty with her hair down to her waist," she sobbed. "I cried the whole day yesterday, just thinking about my children."

"We do not know anymore from whom the threats come. For all we know, some plain louts are exacting revenge or just taking advantage of the confusion and the women," said one Algerian woman who would give her name only as Malika.

"What makes things even more difficult is that we simply do not understand why we are being killed. If we understood, our deaths would be less unbearable," Malika added, an arts student in Paris fearful of the day her residence permit ran out.

## Ex-vice president to stand trial

by Fabiana Frayssinet

Guatemala's former vice president, Gustavo Espina, is to stand trial for his involvement in an attempted power grab in May 1993 by then president Jorge Serrano.

Espina, who had been in exile in Costa Rica since June 1993, turned himself in to the Guatemalan authorities on Tuesday.

He "made the valiant and wise decision to voluntarily appear before the courts to clear his name," his son, Gustavo Espina Jr, told Radio Sonora in the Guatemalan capital.

Espina is charged with violating the Constitution, mishandling funds, abusing power and embezzlement. Serrano, still in exile in Panama, faces the same charges in absentia.

A week after Serrano dissolved Congress and the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court announced his removal and Espina's resignation.

Espina declared himself president the following day, but four days later, the Court ruled against him and appointed then ombudsman Ramiro De Leon to serve out the rest of the presidential term, which expires at the end of this year.

### Disobeyed orders for human rights

## US soldier challenges army policy in Haiti

by Dan Coughlin

Captain Lawrence P. Rockwood is not the kind of soldier you would expect to break ranks with the U.S. military, but his decision to put Haitians' human rights ahead of the needs of his superior officers may land him in prison.

A 15-year army veteran and scion of a military family stretching back to the U.S. Civil War, Rockwood, 36, held a sensitive intelligence position on the staff of the top U.S. Army general in Haiti.

Faced with what he perceives the criminal negligence of the U.S. Army in not stopping human rights violations after U.S. troops landed in Haiti last September, he took matters into his own hands.

After finishing work on Sept. 30, 1994, the third anniversary of the coup that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Rockwood loaded his M-16, put on his combat gear, and headed for the National Penitentiary in downtown Port-au-Prince where he believed the Haitian military was still holding and abusing prisoners.

"I decided to take (the) action in order to avoid the continued inexcusable loss of human life even though it

would mean the end of a 15-year military career and a possible court martial," Rockwood later wrote to the then commander of U.S. ground forces in Haiti.

Blocked by the warden from inspecting the prison, he was arrested and shipped back to his home base of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York.

Rockwood, whose trial is expected to begin later this month, now faces up to ten years in military prison on a string of charges, including disobeying orders and dereliction of duty.

His case underscores the continuing problems with Washington's refusal to disarm Haitian paramilitary groups and to dismember the

old repressive networks in the Caribbean country.

In fact, the U.S. has been attacked by human rights groups for 'recycling' former members of the Haitian army into an interim police force and stressing reconciliation with pro-coup forces instead of justice for the victims of the coup.

Top U.S. officials have argued that these steps are necessary to preserve stability in the country and have moved to preserve elements of the Haitian army and police.

This policy has alarmed the Aristide government, U.N. officials and human rights groups, who say that the old repressive apparatus needs to be fully dismantled.

## Nepal balancing left and right

The world's first communist monarchy completed 100 days in office yesterday, maintaining a delicate balance between leftist doctrine and free-market capitalism, IPS reports from Kathmandu.

The government, led by veteran communist prime minister Man Mohan Adhikary, says it is not against privatisation and free-market reforms. At the same time, it

favours only "selective privatisation" of public enterprises.

No major initiative on free-market reforms has yet been launched, but there have been a number of populist programmes geared to please the majority rural masses who voted for the United Marxist Leninist (UML) party.

These include the formation of a commission for land reforms and a major rural development drive.

The 'Build Your Village Yourself' (BYVY) programme entails hand-outs of 6,000 dollars to each of the country's 4,000 villages.

This money is to be used for building local infrastructure for projects such as irrigation and drinking water systems under the guidance of an all-party committee.

The UML has dispatched 'awareness-raising' cultural troupes to tour the districts to generate support for the BYVY programme through cultural shows, including songs and dances.

The balancing act has served the government well in the foreign policy arena. The UML government has requested invitations to visit both India and China, the south Asian giants that border the tiny kingdom towards the north and the south.



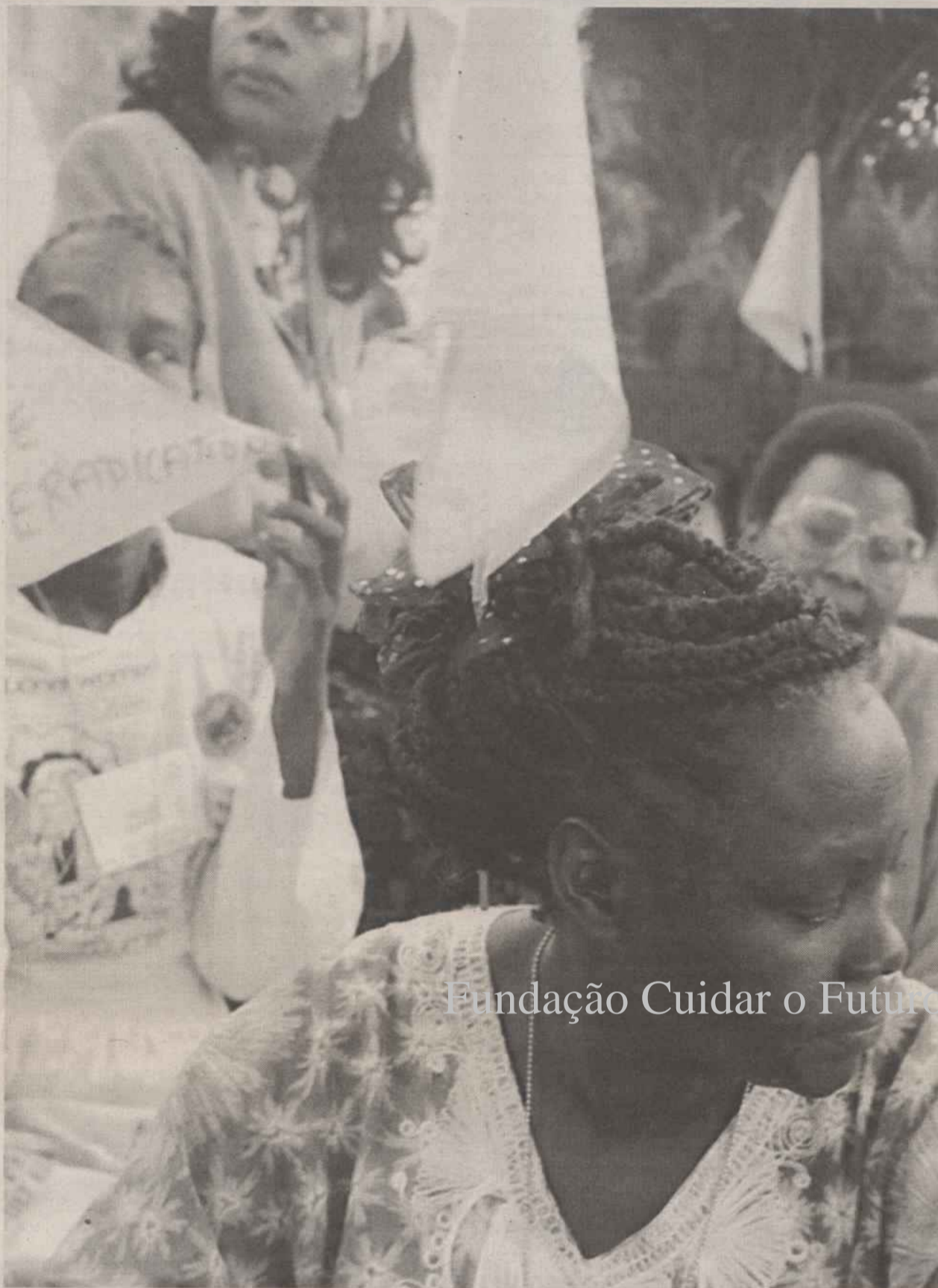
Two sides of Algerian womanhood, as seen in Algiers in 1992. Picture Det Frei Aktuelt archives.

## World view



Javad, Iran. (c) Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate





Hunger strikers protesting lack of commitment to poverty alleviation. (Full story: Page 2) Picture: Klaus Holting

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro



Since it was set up 30 years ago, IPS has grown into a global communications system for development with the fifth largest international news network. It takes a unique global perspective on an increasingly interdependent world, giving a voice to those marginalised by the mainstream. IPS, moving from information to communications, is already received daily by more than 14,000 NGOs worldwide.

IPS operations are made up of:

- The IPS news agency produced daily in English and Spanish and translated into 17 other languages. The service provides news features, analyses and expert commentaries on the events and global processes affecting the economic, social and political development of peoples and nations, especially in the South. IPS news service reaches over 1,000 media worldwide.
- IPS Projects, which carries out training, information exchange and sets up alternative telecommunication networks. It trains journalists in new news values so they can genuinely reflect the concerns of neglected sectors of society.
- IPS Telecommunications specialises in transfer of technology to improve telecommunications in countries of the South.

## Cubans hit blockade

by Diego Cevallos

Cuban NGOs used the Social Summit in Copenhagen yesterday to warn the world that their country's progress in basic education and health is being eroded by the U.S. economic embargo.

"We are an example of a country that has made social gains but we risk losing them because of the absurd U.S. blockade," Lazaro Mora of the non-state Cuban Centre for European Studies, told Terra Viva.

While governments and NGOs from other Latin American countries have tended to be on opposite sides of the fence, the Cubans have presented a united front in Copenhagen.

NGO spokespersons from the island said their main objective here was the same as the government's: promoting Cuba's social gains and

speaking out against the three-decade old U.S. embargo.

"We always denounce the blockade and, where this is concerned, we are coordinating our efforts with the official delegation, but that doesn't mean we are subordinate to or conditioned by them," Mora said.

"Now that the socialist bloc has disappeared, the blockade is hurting us more," complained Jose Manuel Galego, who heads Cuba's Centre for Asian and Oceanian Studies. "Drugs are short and we even have food problems."

Cubans' life expectancy has risen from 57 to 74 years since the 1959 revolution, while infant mortality has dropped from 39 per 1000 live births to nine.

In 1959, only 56 out of every 100 children attended school. In 1994, the rate was 100 percent, while illiteracy, which was 23.6 percent has been eradicated.

In the Final Analysis

## Its fair trade, stupid

by Kunda Dixit

If there is one piece of advice for Social Summiteers, it is this: Forget aid, talk trade. Not free trade - that has become an euphemism for old-fashioned economic imperialism, but fair trade.

Free trade has a long and illustrious history of brazen arm-twisting of weak nations by strong ones. Angry natives dumped tea chests into Boston harbour, the Chinese went to war because the British insisted on freely trading opium. Might gave Europe's maritime mercantile nations the right to ride the trade winds in their quest of colonial riches. Today, the market mantra ensures the continuation of this free-for-all trade where the strongest win all.

All the rhetoric at GATT and WTO notwithstanding, at the end of the day the West has run away yet again with all the toys. It has turned 'free' trade and economic 'liberalisation' into a mainstream ideology. It is heretical to poke holes in it - just like the high priests of Stalinism did not take kindly to criticism of centrally planned economies.

"Free trade is and has always been the essence of imperialism," writes Australian-born documentary maker, John Pilger. "Simply being aware of this can be effective in opposing it. Without awareness there can be no understanding and no resistance. Some things never change."

Some development activists here have written off substantial aid pledges at the World Summit in Copenhagen. And surprisingly, they are not too worried about that.

ODA may soothe consciences in the north and compassion may make them feel good, but it is also turning developing countries into aid junkies. Besides self-respect, it kills self-help. Aid is often camouflaged as export subsidy. Dumping surplus milk, sugar and grain and disguising it as emergency food aid depresses prices and puts farmers in developing countries out of business.

There are success stories of developing countries (mainly in East Asia) that have thrived without large amounts of foreign aid. And in every case, the important ingredient was that they had their internal economic house in order. An efficient system invested taxes in creating human capital and attaining growth.

But while good governance and domestic policy reforms are important, they can easily be derailed by an unfair international order. Least developed countries with tottering economies are especially vulnerable and must be treated as a special case.

A much better way than aid to inject capital into poor countries is trade: commerce that is equitable and gives a fair price to producers. International prices for most commodities which are main exports of developing countries are at a fraction of their levels 30 years ago in real terms. Coffee fetched 2.50 dollars per pound in 1977, it is down to less than 50 cents. Cocoa was at 2,200 dollars per tonne ten years ago, it is now at 1,350 dollars per ton. Ponder that the next time you have coffee and Danish at the Bella Center.

For example, Germany's terms of trade with developing countries has improved by 50 percent in the past 15 years, largely because of low prices of raw materials.

At last count, it was estimated that fairer trade could pump in 120 billion dollars into the poorest countries - twice the current ODA levels. There were hosannahs for some at the end of the Uruguay Round, but who benefits from free trade? Developing countries will get only one third of the gain, and East Asian and Latin American middle income countries will take most of it.

The really poor countries, which exported 60 billion dollars worth of garments and textiles last year, are going to lose out. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) calculates that if the protectionist Multi Fibre Agreement were abolished today it would earn the poorest countries about 50 billion dollars more a year.

Other exporters of shoes, carpets and primary agricultural products are going to lose out, too. Oddly enough, free trade requires poor countries to throw open their markets for imports while rich countries increasingly protect their merchants. If there is one very strong case to be made for increased aid flows to developing countries, it is that they should be compensated for this loss.

We have seen that Northern growth is not the answer to poverty in the South.

