



Womanpower

Page 4

Church seeks to turn the clock back on Cairo

Page 5



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International Women's Day

180 days, 180 ways to Beijing



Delegates listening to the debate. Picture: Klaus Holsting.

Fundação Centro do Futuro

An alternate declaration

NGOs came together yesterday to forge a common position on the decisions being taken at the Bella Centre and to issue an alternate declaration and programme of action. They discussed a draft document called the Copenhagen Declaration. An offspring of the Oslofjord Declaration, its states that the summit draft documents are "in contradiction to the objectives of equitable and sustainable social

development". It adds: "The U.N. document's over-reliance on unaccountable, open free market forces as a basis for organising national and international economies contradicts our view that these forces are aggravating rather than alleviating the current global social crisis." The initiative is spearheaded by the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Develop-

ment, DAWN, EUROSTEP and Third World Network. There is no agreement on the declaration as yet, and the liveliness of the meeting demonstrated it can be as difficult to get NGOs to agree as governments. The next meeting is planned for tonight, once NGOs have a chance to read and discuss the document. It would then be launched on Thursday.

Frustrated by decades of unkept promises, women from poor and rich nations at the World Social Summit in Copenhagen will Wednesday kick-off a global campaign that calls on government leaders to put their money where the mouth is.

The '180 Days/180 Ways Women's Action Campaign', to be launched at the NGO Forum on International Women's Day, represents the number of days left before the Sep Fourth World Conference on Women.

The campaign, coordinated by the New York-based Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), seeks to build public support for the ideas and goals enshrined in the Beijing platform for action, 'Agenda for Equality.'

But women activists here say the campaign must focus around the key issue of holding governments accountable in the areas of financial and institutional support for women's empowerment.

"We can not allow Beijing to happen without a commitment to real resources," said Noeleen Heyzer, director of the New York-based U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

She told Terra Viva: "All the work from now upto Beijing has to ensure that resources are available to implement the conference recommendations."

The '180 Days/180 Ways' campaign could be used to help "come up with strategies as to how we will obtain these kinds of (resource) commitments so that Beijing is a pledging conference", Heyzer said.

Gertrude Mongella, secreta-

The Agenda for Equality rests not on words, but on resources, implementation, enforcement, integration and accountability.

by Jaya Dayal

ry-general of the Beijing meet agreed. "It's time to put the right amount of money in the right places — in women's equality," she said.

"We have sufficiently diagnosed, studied and put together data on women's suffering, now it's time for action," she added.

Bella Abzug, co-chair of WEDO said coming up with the money to implement the platform for action was critical to the credibility of the conference.

"We're not coming to Beijing to beg or to ask - we're going to present our bill - and we expect it to be paid," she said.

Rights

The campaign focuses around local, national and regional-level activities, will help galvanise women and inform them about their rights already protected under national and international law.

"We're trying to create a movement from the bottom, hitting the top, and then going back to the bottom where people say, 'You promised to do that, now you better do it,'" she said.

As part of the campaign, WEDO is producing a series of primers on gender, environment and international economic issues for distribution to women activists the world over.

The first primer, 'Codes of

Conduct for Transnational Corporations,' spells out the impact of these mega businesses on women and the environment, and offers tips on how to use existing codes and laws as a lobbying tool for progressive action.

Abzug added that unless governments make hard commitments at the Beijing meeting, it will lack bite: "The only way we can feel confident is if governments take initiatives."

She applauded the kinds of gestures some nations have already made at the Social Summit, like the Danes' million-dollar debt relief, and a USAID grant for girls schooling in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She noted that Australia was already talking about making the Beijing meet a 'conference for commitment.'

Meanwhile, a number of influential women human rights, health, environment and economic NGOs say the Beijing conference will offer a chance for neglectful governments, the United Nations and civil society, to make "a pledge to gender justice".

The success of the 'Agenda for Equality,' to be adopted in Beijing, "rests not on words, but on resources, implementation, enforcement, integration and accountability," says a statement by the NGOs.

Early endorsement of the pledge includes groups like

Turn to page 8 ▶



Cooperatives It's a socialist world already

Want to know the answer to joblessness and economic stagnation in your country? Then look no further. Bruce Thordarson, says co-ops are the way.

A full 45 percent of the world's active working population are in co-operatives, he says. What's more, they're mainly in so-called capitalist states, says Thordarson.

He cites little known statistics to support his points. Example: 40 percent of all workers in the United States of America, Japan, India, Malaysia and Denmark are co-operatives. In Belgium and Norway - 50 percent. France - 60 per cent. In Canada, Sweden and Uruguay - 70 percent.

Thordarson is Director-General of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) an international body with a membership

of 700 million people in 102 countries.

He admits that cooperatives around the world "generally do a poor job of working together at the international level, with the result few have an international reputation".

A cooperative is essentially an organisation controlled on a democratic basis by the people who use its services. This commonality of owners and users is the element which distinguishes cooperatives from other forms of economic activity whether capitalistic or public.

Cooperatives are set up by poor people for their own benefit, says Thordarson. The reason why they haven't taken off in developing countries where unemployment is massive is a combination of "colonial traditions" and government policy.

Numbers game

G-77 converges on 20/20

by Mahesh Uniyal and Ruby Ofori

The G-77 bloc of developing nations is close to an agreement on the contentious 20/20 initiative, but will not agree to arms cuts that weaken national security.

"I think we are more or less agreed, but the specifics are still being worked out," Cielito Habito, who is heading the Philippines delegation to the Summit told a press conference yesterday. "The G-77 countries are pushing for an explicit statement (by the industrialised) on the 20/20 concept."

The 20/20 proposal, to earmark 20 percent of international development aid and 20 percent of national budgets for social development, is being discussed in one of the four working groups set up by the main committee at the Social Summit.

There has been opposition within G-77, the developing world grouping made up of 132 countries, to the 20/20 concept.

"It was generally agreed that

cuts in arms expenditure should not affect national security concerns," a G-77 delegate said. "At the same time it is agreed that whatever is saved from arms cuts should be applied for social development."

Habito, the Philippines Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning, said the G-77 had scored a victory in persuading the North to accept its position on the 10th commitment on education and health. Most of the first two days of talks were taken up by discussions on this, he pointed out.

"It is quite notable that the European Union has agreed to take the G-77 text as the basis of negotiations at the summit and withdraw its own text," he said.

The G-77 representatives pointed out that besides the 20/20 formula, the main dispute at the summit turned on the issue of debt cancellation, the right to development and language about the family. Philippines currently chairs the G-77.

The impasse included a section in the document which

deals with media and education and express the desire to encourage "education systems and communication media to raise people's understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration including gender sensitivity, non-violence and tolerance and solidarity and respect for the diversity of cultures".

There follows a contentious part which seeks to "discourage the gratuitous depiction of explicit sex, violence and cruelty in the media".

The United States and Japan were said to have opposed this for being too strongly stated. They argued it would be a licence for censorship.

"Why should we be getting all the filth? We would want a say in the media we consume. We want a media that encourages intellectual development and encourages our diverse cultures," said Zwelakhe Sisulu, South African delegate.

"Essentially the summit has been an uphill one. It should have been an apex but even on small things we have to battle."

"Sure, we made mistakes"

World Bank tries a dash of candour

by Luis Cordova

The men in suits from the World Bank were on a sticky wicket yesterday at the NGO Forum. "Sure we have made mistakes, but that's part of this business," they acknowledged in front of a critical audience.

When candour didn't work, the bank's vice president, Armeane Choksi, and director of population, health and nutrition, David Ferranti, tried flattery. They wanted to work with NGOs, they said, because "we don't know how to get to the poor."

But, lurking back at the safety of the Bella Centre, publi-

city material the much-maligned financial institution brought to Copenhagen boasted, "the bank invests more in people than anyone else."

Error

And "we learn from error" the officials said in the crowded room at the forum.

"Yes, they take the risk, and if there is a negative result, we pay," replied Mazide Ndiaye from Favdo, a Senegalese NGO. "They always impose their views, at least in Africa," he added.

Doug Hellinger, from the U.S.-based Development Gap, accused the bank of launching a blatant public relation

campaign.

"You guys have no shame," he added from the back of the room.

On the overall performance of the men from the bank, a Philippines NGO activist who only identified herself as Carol, said "they talked too much, and they shaped the discussion".

Outside the meeting, young members of a Spanish NGO preferred to protest the presence of the officials rather than to participate in the debate.

"We are an easy target," one of the bankers complained. True. In addition to the ideology, the suits and suitcases did not fit on Holmen.

Who benefits from free trade?

Transnationals dwarf nations

by Gumisai Mutume

What do the Mexican region of Chiapas, the Caribbean Windward Islands and the Bangladesh textile industry have in common?

All three are victims of trade liberalisation.

Development agencies from rich countries have lashed out at the Social Summit for failing to address both the impact of trade on the lives of the world's poor and the power of transnational corporations.

A report released yesterday in Brussels-based Copenhagen by the International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) concluded that the effect of trade policies being promoted at the summit contradict the meeting's major aim of alleviating poverty.

ICDA is a network of development organisations which lobbies for changes in Third World aid policies. Its document, 'An Alternative Report on Trade' is the result of a series of case studies carried out in developing countries to assess the impact of current trends in international trade.

In Brazil for example, opening up of the agricultural sector has turned the country from being self-sufficient in wheat to a net importer and resulted in the loss of 100,000 jobs not to mention the

And General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules have hit the banana producing Caribbean Windward Island hard as it opens up to cheaper bananas produced by trans-nationals in Latin America. Banana production accounted for 60 percent of the island's work force in 1992.

"One big message we have for the summit is that it has to take into consideration the real actors in international trade, TNCs (trans-national corporations)," says Myriam Vander Stichele trade programme co-ordinator for ICDA.

"TNCs have been able to lobby Western governments so that there is no real regulation on their activities in developing countries."

The headquarters of 90 percent of the world's TNCs are industrialised countries who

so far refuse to regulate TNC activities.

ICDA says the power of trans-nationals overshadows countries governed by world leaders gathered in Copenhagen. Sales figures of the world's four largest multinationals - Exxon, General Motors, Ford and Shell in 1991 totalled a staggering 435 billion dollars exceeding the gross domestic products of Africa - 364 billion dollars.

Yet TNCs are largely absent from the text and conclusions of the summit.

Investment strategies like sub-contracting, rules of special benefit to TNCs which ignore health and environmental regulations in developing countries mean multinationals enjoy a free reign on the economies of the south.

Investment

Trade is the most important external source of income for the South accounting for 923 billion dollars in 1992 as compared to 60 billion dollars from aid and 51 billion dollars from investment.

But the south - where 80 percent of the world's population lives - only controls 20 percent of world trade and its share is dwindling.

Alejandro Villamar is a vocal critic of the increasing marginalisation of the south.

Villamar comes from the Chiapas Indian community in Mexico who eke out a living from growing corn. He is in Copenhagen crying out against the impact of the new North American Free Trade

Area (NAFTA) on his people.

The agreement signed by Canada, Mexico and the U.S. effectively translates into a death sentence for millions of Chiapas who are expected to compete with U.S. farmers.

"Most of my people live on the land but where it costs 270 dollars to produce a tonne of corn. In the U.S. it costs 92 dollars. How can we hope to survive?" says Villamar.

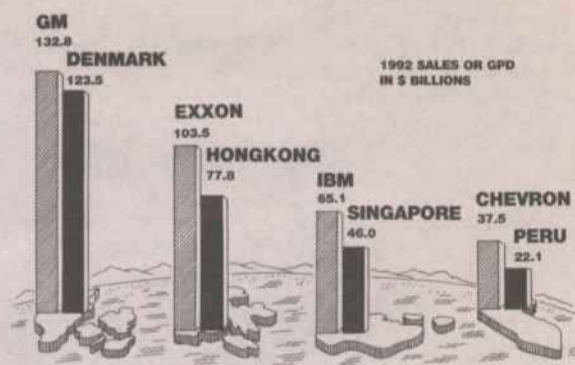
These forgotten trade aspects of the summit mean the industrialised world will continue to dominate world trade after Copenhagen with the endorsement of the South.

Out of the Uruguay Round of free trade talks for instance developing countries will only gain 23 percent of the benefits.

The first phase to implement rules on textile trade under the pact has only liberalised 0.1 percent of the European Union market while freeing the market threatens to wipe out 5 million family farms which sustain more than half of the rural working population in Brazil.

"These are the real issues the summit should deal with," says Roger Briottet director of British based NGO, World Development Movement which was also involved in the production of the report.

"Public opinion has had an impact on the World Bank's attitude on structural adjustment programmes," said Briottet. "With this document we hope to stir public debate and hope to regulate to some extent the activities of multinationals."



The largest transnationals have sales that are larger than the GDP of many countries. (Source: Fortune 500, 1993, World Development Report, 1994)

The other Brazil

An alternative thinktank is offering a novel system of assessing the hidden impact of free trade on developing countries like Brazil.

The non-governmental International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) uses the example of Brazil to argue that many facts on trade are hidden behind economic statistics.

Brazil is considered one of the winners of the Uruguay Round because of its exports of competitive farm products. But the ICDA argues that such an assessment is based

on the competitive agricultural model and takes no note of the 73 percent of the 38 million rural population that falls below the poverty line. The number of rural poor has actually risen from the 1965 figure of 65 percent of the rural population.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) says in a recent study of 114 developing countries that Brazil is sixth among countries with the worst social problems.

The ICDA is calling for a broader vision of the link

between trade and development that goes beyond "the limited economic criteria to encompass the impact of trade on people," stressing that liberalisation of agricultural trade is reinforcing the mechanisms of marginalisation of millions of farmers.

In Chiapas, Mexico, the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) threatens to further marginalise Indians. And, cocoa producers in Africa fear for their export possibilities and employment.



John Lofton is an American with a loud voice who shoots from the hip.

A publicity-seeking radical, this proud rightwinger entertained groups of people - including a few eager journalists. Even as decision-makers were inside laboriously confronting brackets, Lofton was outside poking fun at them.

Lofton's views sufficiently provocative to give him an "interesting freak of the day" status at the summit. Loudly, he proclaimed to all who would listen that the Social Development Summit was a futile exercise.

Journalists were soon scribbling and cranking up their tape recorders: Lofton was a media star.

Sample sound bite to Terra Viva: "You may as well fly a plane over Africa and drop bags of money on them."

To a Bengali radio journalist who probed further, Lofton said: "This is a rat hole. Do you have that that word in your country? I'm an American we pay through our noses for these meetings we want no more money for this kind of crap."

Soon, Lofton was talking to an audience hanging on his every word as he made his clamorous pronouncements during a round table discussion.

Lofton even managed to corner Danish prime minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, during a press conference in the lobby of Bella centre. He berated Rasmussen for Denmark's social democratic policies. The prime minister, an unassuming gentle giant, gave as good as he got. But he couldn't sway Lofton who is here representing the Washington based Conservative Caucus.

Not only are summits a waste of money in Lofton's view, they make things worse. Plain talking, from a man with a loud voice who demands to be heard. END

Mind your language

It was not poverty, human rights or SAP that broke up a meeting of the African group yesterday. It was language.

Coming together to forge a common position for the continent on the issues of the summit, the meeting broke up in acrimony when translators could not be found.

Sources told Terra Viva that English-speaking delegates walked out of the caucus

because their francophone counterparts insisted on presenting their addresses in French and summit officials had failed to provide interpreters.

The meeting has been rescheduled and translators will be present when the group reconvenes.

Depending on who colonised you, it seems language still divides Africa.

Istanbul 1996 The City Summit

The idea, says N'Dow, is to try and ensure a better life in the places "where man will live, if man will live."

Some say it is the last summit of the century, but you never know. Others prefer to call it The City Summit, since it deals with the world's urban centres, undermined by increasing poverty. Otherwise, it's known by its U.N. label Habitat II.

Few doubt the importance of the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements to be held in Istanbul in June 1996, least of all its Secretary-General, Senegalese Wally N'Dow.

"The future will be an urban future, and we shall prepare," he said yesterday at the Bella Centre, adding that the Istanbul Conference will focus to a large extent on poverty since it "is becoming increasingly urbanised."

"Cities are a testimonial to human civilisation," runs a brochure heralding the conference. It warns that there are two possible scenarios for the

21st century: cities of despair, or cities of hope.

The idea, says N'Dow, is to try and ensure a better life in the places "where man will live, if man will live."

Habitat II will involve new actors in addition to official delegations and representatives of civil society. These are local authorities which, in an increasingly decentralised world, are the real government in many cities.

N'Dow commented that the main strategy for resolving the problems of the world's urban centres will have to hinge on relying on people's ability. "Human capital, that's the most important of all resources," he said.

For the organisers of the 'City Summit': "Empowerment should be at the heart of any strategy for poverty eradication."

Arias on Social Development

If the will is there, the funds will come

If the world's nations really want to contribute to social development, they can find the funds to do so, says 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias.

"If the military budgets of all countries had been slashed by just three percent between 1987 and 1994, 930 billion dollars would have been freed up," he told Terra Viva in an exclusive interview.

This is way above the already substantial amount of 55 billion dollars in foreign aid awarded each year.

"The poor countries spend 125 dollars on arms, more than double what they receive in aid," he noted, without forgetting to mention the 160 billion dollars in debt service payments that flow from South to North each year.

"Foreign aid has to be conditioned on demilitarisation," said the former president of

Costa Rica, which has no armed forces.

However, he recognised that the creation of what he calls a 'Global demilitarisation fund' will not be possible as long as the United States continues to dump three-quarters of the weapons it produces onto Third World markets.

"This conference will put the will of the richest nations to the test, to see if they really want to save the planet," he said.

"It will enable economic powers to become moral powers, whose leaders are able to explain to their peoples that if the world is increasingly interdependent, the suffering of the people of Angola, Haiti or Nicaragua is also our business, and that the rich nations can only sleep peacefully by improving living conditions in those countries," Arias added.

Child Labour Attack on Bella Centre averted

by Mahesh Uniyal

Some NGO delegates were so fired up at the way the summit is not tackling the issue of child labour that they almost decided to storm the Plenary at the Bella Centre.

A proposal to forcibly march into the tightly guarded summit venue, off-bounds for NGOs, proved too strong for most of those present yesterday at an OXFAM-sponsored workshop in Holmen.

The proposal was made by Swami Agnivesh of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front of India. He is known for carrying out dramatic rescues of child and adult workers from the clutches of ruthless employers in India, which has largest child workforce in the world.

"There are 60 million children in servitude in India between the ages of five and 16 years," Agnivesh told the day-long workshop on Exploitation and Exclusion - Human Rights in the Development Process.

The children work an average of 10 hours a day, some of them even as long as 16 hours. "Let the World Summit for once focus, not just on the poor and unemployed, but on the most defenceless and the most voiceless, the most vulnerable among the world's poor," Agnivesh urged.

He said the number of working children is far more than the 200 million calculated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In some countries, more than half of all children are workers: 5.7 million of the nine million children in the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal work, the bulk of them as

farm hands, Gauri Pradhan of the Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre told the workshop.

As in India and Pakistan, a sizeable chunk of working children in Nepal are employed in hand-weaving carpets, one of the biggest earners of foreign exchange for these countries.

In the predominantly rural South Asian nations, where most peasants do not own the land they till, it is common for parents to sell children to middlemen hiring for carpet factories so as to pay off loan sharks.

In Nepal, nearly 500,000 children migrate every year from villages to the towns, mainly the capital city. Of these, 300,000 work in carpet and garment factories, brick kilns, stone quarries, as domestic helps and in small street-side teashops.

Working

Nearly 60 million children in India do the work of adults, an equal number of grown-ups are jobless for most of the year. If working children could be weaned away from their present activities into the school system, 60 million new jobs would be available.

Agnivesh suggests that a global fund should be set up to support compulsory schooling up to the age of 14 years, with an emphasis on imparting skills useful in a variety of workplaces.

The money for this can be found by diverting the poor world's external debt, specially that owed to multilateral lenders. He is also for using the proceeds of a 0.5 percent tax on international stock speculations for this purpose.

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Publisher: Roberto Savio
 Guest Editor: Nadia Hijab
 Chief Sub-Editor:
 Fohan Jayasekera
 News Co-ordinator: Beryl Leach
 News Editor: Kunda Dixit
 Sub-Editors: Fitzroy Nation
 Obinna Anyadike
 Ken Blackman
 Cartoonists: Ajit Ninan
 Jerry Robinson

Senior Reporter:
 Yvette Collymore

Reporters:

Ihsan Bouabid

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Photographs: Klaus Holstein

General Manager: Vic Sutton

Assistant Manager:

Francesca Pelloni

Technical Co-ordinator:

Enrique Bravo

Technical Officers: Lamine Ndiaye

Eric Bringas

NGO Liaison: Susan Alexander

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Terra Viva

c/o De Fri Aktuelt
 Rådhuspladsen 45-47
 1595 Copenhagen V
 Tel. 3393 2914
 Fax 3393 4244

Bella Centre
 (Press Area, East Hall)
 Center Boulevard
 2300 Copenhagen S
 Tel. 3252 9167 - 3252 9312
 Fax 3252 9578

NGO Forum
 Press Centre
 Holmen
 Tel. 3266 8256 (NGO NEWS)

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Womanpower

Opinion

Poverty is inseparably linked to lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections," states the draft programme of action.

Of the poor, women have the least control over resources - and over their lives. Anti-poverty policies and programmes will never succeed unless this is recognised. Nor can they succeed unless they are carried out within a framework to achieve the human rights of women. That is why commitment 5 is so important.

They may have little else in common, but women North and South, rich and poor, urban and rural, share the fact that their human rights are wronged. Many in the South will contest this special focus by arguing that men haven't achieved their human rights either. Too true. And more men are jailed and tortured under non-democratic regimes than women.

But in these same countries, men will be able to own property whereas women may not, men may

be the perpetrators of domestic violence whereas women will not, men may be represented in parliament where women are not. And so on. These and other problems also face women in the North.

articulate the issues. The stage was set for preliminary global debate at the first U.N. conference on

thought. At Nairobi in 1985, mutual respect and a common platform were achieved.

The networks that have evolved, the numbers they bring together and the message they transmit

that participated in the last three U.N. conferences - environment at Rio, human rights in Vienna, population in Cairo.

This summit is a testament to their strength. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing will be a major breakthrough for womanpower.

The word power has many negative connotations in the context of family, national and international relations. Is this what women really want? Perhaps that is why so many men fear the prospect of women as equal partners in all spheres.

Yet a fair reading of the history of the women's movement shows that, throughout, women have adopted a broad agenda that seeks equity for all. Indeed, they have taken a lead in pushing equity onto the overall global agenda - economic, political, social, cultural, environmental.

Having suffered for centuries, the majority of women seek a definition of power that excludes domination. It is safe for men to celebrate international women's day.



The campaign for women's human rights began over a century ago. But it was only over the last 20 years that enough women have been able to understand, define and

women in Mexico in 1975. The North-South divide was given a frank airing at Copenhagen in 1980, and women the world over discovered they had more in common than they had

have at last give women the power to push their agenda. It has been remarked that women's groups were the best organised and most coherent of the civil society organisations



Poverty at the epicentre

Copenhagen has brought together political leaders from throughout the world to discuss and promote solutions to an issue that worries us deeply: poverty.

The Argentinian delegation has come to this so important forum with precise instructions that stem from certain basic ethical principles and from what we have applied in these years of work.

In the first place, we believe it is necessary to approach the issue of poverty from a broader perspective than that of a scarcity of income. For us poverty is caused by a lack of capacity to develop in life and to participate in the benefits of economic growth.

Naturally, this concept includes the scarcity of incomes, but it also encompasses such aspects as education and the lack of capacity to organise oneself in communities, loss of self-esteem or difficulties in obtaining justice.

Viewed in this manner, poverty excludes by definition assistance-oriented actions and opens up a broad and

certainly rich panorama for social policy, one as complex as human nature itself.

This is why we are committed to an essential reform of the education system which views quality as a central component of equity, extends the compulsory nature of and reinforces the work-related orientation of secondary-level education.

We also reaffirm the central role of the state in designing and financing social policies, a role which cannot be delegated, but we are also convinced that no social policy will be successful if it is not axed on link-ups with community organisations, which our country is so rich in and which can ensure not only greater efficiency in the allocation of expenditure but also the consolidation of social structures.

In this regard, we have urged multilateral bodies at various international fora to accompany this superb evidence of solidarity that community organisations constitute with training and financing.

But to be able to develop a



Comment by Carlos Saul Menem, President of the Republic of Argentina

successful social policy, the state requires three essential conditions: economic order, resources and technology. The policy applied in Argentina in the past five years has shown how lower inflation and economic growth have allowed for the reduction of poverty levels from 33 percent in 1990 to 11 percent today.

But greater fiscal returns have also enabled our investment in people to increase

from an average 14 percent of the GDP in the early 1980s to more than 18.4 percent in 1995.

However, the increased provision of resources that allows for stability has few prospects for success unless it goes hand in hand with a serious transformation of the mechanisms for managing social policies. As evidence of our commitment in this regard, we are informing other nations of the continent on our willingness to provide technical assistance in social policy planning and management in areas in which Argentina has accumulated valuable experience.

The most elemental norms of international solidarity make poverty a problem of humanity as a whole, but it is also an issue germane to the world's political balance. The multiplication of regional conflicts between poor nations must make the richer countries think seriously about the issue.

And it is not just a matter of verbal commitment. Added to

the need to make increasingly more resources available to our needier brothers and sisters, there is the obligation to end the distortions of international trade which restrict the development prospects of our countries, thereby increasing poverty. In this regard, the Argentinian delegation has to make its voice heard in Copenhagen.

All these principles are contained in the National Plan for Overcoming Poverty which we shall soon present for public consideration and which defines the principles, amounts and programmes our country uses to confront the problem. Moreover, to reaffirm our commitment to the results of the Copenhagen Summit, we are to invite the ministers of social affairs of the Americas to a meeting in Buenos Aires to analyse the conclusions and develop mechanisms for horizontal cooperation which can enable us to strengthen our common struggle to overcome poverty.

Conservative religious leaders allied with the Right Vatican here to undo Cairo

by Jaya Dayal

Conservative religious forces and free market policies are destroying decades of efforts to protect women's health the world over, women activists here warn.

They charge that major advances to guarantee women's rights to sexual and reproductive health, reached at the 1994 Population Summit in Cairo despite vociferous opposition from the Vatican and conservative Islamic voices, are now under attack.

A large Vatican delegation is at the Social Summit to safeguard references to the family and deny references to 'reproductive health' which it thinks is a code word for abortion.

While the links between women's right to reproductive health, choice and poverty were agreed to at the Cairo conference, that link has been lost on the way to Copenhagen.

Draft documents prepared for the summit include many bracketed, or disputed, references to key Cairo issues like reproductive and sexual health, the family in its vari-

Poverty a way of describing 'flagrant abuse of human rights'

ous forms and personal responsibility and choice.

"To call the heads of state to Copenhagen to take off the brackets around reproductive health is entirely absurd," said Sonia Correa of the Rio de Janeiro-based Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis.

She told Terra Viva that issues concerning women and their human rights were still not acceptable to a handful of countries like Honduras, Iran, Nicaragua and Pakistan.

"We never imagined that the number of brackets around the issue of family, human rights and sovereignty would be as large as the number of brackets around the question of debt," Correa said.

"Looking at the brackets portrays where the tensions are - macro-economic issues are as important as gender issues," said Correa, a member of the Barbados-based Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

"For many women's NGOs, the Social Summit was seen as the opportunity to fill the silences of Cairo - namely the macroeconomic issues," she said, "but instead, what we find is Cairo language in brackets."

Upendra Baxi, professor of law at the University of Delhi, says: "Poverty is, of course, a less direct way of describing the phenomenon of massive, flagrant and ongoing violations of human rights."

He points out that although human rights language undergirds the debate on social development, "gender equity remains conflicted with the recognition of religious and cultural autonomy".

Baxi warns, moreover, that instead of consolidating the gains of the 1993 Human Rights Summit and pre-figuring the 1995 Beijing conference, the Social Summit's draft declaration "is rather an elegant emissary of thoroughly Dunkel-ised human futures".

In fact, according to a large group of development NGOs

from both North and South, the Summit documents lean heavily in favour of a post-GATT free trade regime as the engine to social justice.

Baxi argues that references in the Summit documents to social development, equity and human rights "amount to making the world safe for the market, dominated by trans-nationals."

The Chile-based Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network states that calls for social justice in the Summit documents are undercut by parallel calls for freer market forces.

It notes that countries are far from reaching the 1978 Alma-Ata goal of 'Health for All by the Year 2000', largely because of domestic budget cuts in health and education programmes during the 1980s, as well as the process of privatisation.

"The decentralisation of health services...has been used as a pretext by governments to avoid their responsibilities," says the Network, noting that privatising health systems fail to guarantee principles of equity and rights.



An Egyptian delegate confers. Picture by Klaus Holsting

Sweet smell of success

by Johanna Son

Social summitters have been hearing about little else but how sick the world is: one billion people living in squalour, poisoned oceans and holes in the atmosphere.

The United Nations Children's Fund tried to give some good news yesterday by releasing a book called 'Profiles of Success'. This chronicles case studies of 10 countries and one province that have made impressive

strides in social development despite their relative poverty.

The book's message is that there are countries that have achieved significant gains despite minimal or even negative growth in income.

The UNICEF's high achievers are Botswana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe and sub-Saharan Africa, Sri Lanka and the state of Kerala, India in South Asia, Malaysia and Korea in East Asia and the Pacific, and Barbados, Costa Rica, Cuba

and Mexico in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Indicators used to measure these countries' climb up the social development ladder were health, water and sanitation, nutrition, education and population as seen against regional averages. The book says:

Botswana - one of the world's least developed nations 25 years ago - and Mauritius both made major advances in under-five mortality rates and life expectancy from 1960 to 1993. Zimbabwe today has one of the

best-educated workforces in sub-Saharan Africa, just 15 years after its independence in 1980.

Though it has economic problems, Sri Lanka's social service network stands out in the region. Kerala is one of India's smaller, poorer states, but its life expectancy and rural death rate are way behind the national average.

Malaysia, aided by wealth from oil and strong exports, has seen a decline in child and infant mortality and increased life expectancy.,

'We have to increase the quality of aid'

Social injustice lethal as arms

by Ruby Ofori

ocial inequality is as much a threat to world security as the arms trade. That's the view of Ureen Hedrich, Germany's deputy minister of development cooperation.

In an interview with Terra Viva, Hedrich said: "This summit could contribute to seeing the problem of world security not only in terms of a threat from weapons but also the threat that arises from social injustice, which is at least as important as the military question."

Germany's aid to the Third World, though substantial at eight billion DM a year, is only 0.32 percent of its Gross National Product (GNP), far less than the 0.7 percent advocated by the United Nations. "First of all we give too little official aid. I have to admit that," said the deputy minister. "I don't believe that we will be able to increase the ODA in a substantial amount during the next years because of budget problems in our country."

Third world countries cannot expect any increases in development assistance from Germany mainly because of demands from Eastern Europe. The German government is committed politically to making huge transfers of resources of between 150 to 180 billion deutschmarks per year to the former German Democratic Republic, which is now part of a unified Germany.

Hedrich suggests that rather than increase aid to developing countries, Germany wants to see Third world governments make better use of the aid they already receive. "The problem is that in the future we have to increase the quality of developing aid."

Social sector

This is why Germany supports the idea of more development aid being spent on the social sector, popularly termed the 20/20 Concept in the draft declaration of the summit. However, the deputy cooperation minister is not sure the European Union supports 20/20.

"I'm not quite sure if the EU will form a common approach but, on the other hand, there is not a common approach within the developing countries and so we might have a discussion within this summit."

The Germans are also very critical of how Third world governments run their administrations. They want to see better governance.

"There are still too many governments in the so-called Third World which are not oriented enough to developing their own countries. There is too much money spent on weapons. Often human rights are neglected, too much money spent on luxury things or even a lot of corruption," said Hedrich.

Scrap sanctions, say Arab NGOs

by Ihsan Bouabid

Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Libyan NGOs yesterday came out strongly against economic sanctions which have ravaged these countries.

At a workshop, they said long-term sanctions should not be used as a means of applying pressure against errant regimes which rarely capitulated in any case - even as suffering worsens among ordinary people.

"The direct consequence of the blockade have affected mainly the toiling masses of people rather than the dictatorial regime," said M'hamed Al Hili of the banned Workers Democratic Trade Union Movement of Iraq.

El Taller, the Tunis-based NGO, organised the workshop with the aim of focussing on Development in Arab countries and the New World Order.

One of the presenters, Rola Roshdi of the Kuwaiti Institute for Arab Research, who is

also a member of the Kuwait National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs (NCMPA), expressed support for the Iraqi people.

She urged the release of the 625 Kuwaitis still detained in Iraq.

Iraqis have lived under an economic blockade decided by the U.N. Security Council since the invasion of Kuwait.

"Unemployment has increased at an unprecedented rate. Inflation has spiralled to astronomical figures," Al Hili told the workshop organised which was held as part of the NGO Forum on the situation of Iraqi workers after the Gulf war.

The purchasing power of Iraqi currency, the dinar - equivalent to 3.3 dollars in the 1980s - has been drastically reduced. One dollar was equivalent to over 900 Iraqi dinars.

A representative of Danish

trade unions, Hikmat Hussein, said the monthly food ration provided only 50 percent of the minimum level of calories needed by an Iraqi family.

Since the embargo, the price of basic food items had increased astronomically. Wheat had gone up 405 times, rice 69 times, baby food 232, cooking oil 105.

Arab NGOs at the Social Summit also demand the lifting of the economic embargo against Iraq and Libya, while maintaining the political and diplomatic embargo.

Some Arab NGOs want to draw attention to Iraq's refusal to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 607 and 612 allowing for sale of a quantity of Iraqi oil worth 1.6 billion dollars every 6 months in order to alleviate the negative consequences of the embargo.

Naima Abdulhamid, from the Libyan Association of the Protection of Children, clai-

med that the decade-old embargo against her country makes no sense.

Addressing the Arab NGO caucus, she said the main victims of sanctions are women, children and the elderly. "This is an obstacle to our development and all the people of the world must say that it has to be lifted," she said.

"These sanctions are the source of further destabilization within our societies and they nourish extremism which is in turn exploited by the unpopular regimes in power in the Arab countries," says a working paper and recommendations for the social summit adopted by Arab NGOs last July in Beirut.

Titled "Human Development in the Arab World and the Role of NGO", the working paper was the result of a regional preparatory meeting attended by 127 NGO from 10 countries of the region.

Interview Elizabeth Dowdeswell

The cynical coopting of sustainable development

Why is environmental degradation still with us despite the grand designs of the Rio Earth Summit? Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) spoke to Terra Viva's Ruby Ofori about how the concept of sustainable development has been cynically coopted.

Terra Viva: What lessons have we learned since Rio that are relevant at the Social Summit?

Dowdeswell: One of the things that we learned after UNCED was that if we are to implement sustainable development we have to really take account of the environment, the economy and people. If we don't deal with all three of those we're not going to be successful in implementing sustainable development.

We also have come to understand, in the environmental community, that we don't know the underpinnings of our economy. So for UNEP we have started to try and move beyond the traditional environmental issues to make the real linkages to those aspects of our economy that are actually bringing about environmental degradation. That fits very nicely with the linkage between poverty and the environment.

That means not just involving people in decision making but, much more fundamentally, it means really

starting to understand that we need to think about values and we need to think about ethics. I suppose if there's any one message that I would like conveyed as a result of this summit, it is that we need to go back and think about acting as ethical human beings caring for each other and the environment of which we are a part.

Terra Viva: What has led to this new philosophical underpinning?

Dowdeswell: I have become a little concerned that we have been lulled into a sense of tranquility by this concept of sustainable development. I'm not sure that I've seen a great deal of change for the better to our environment in the last two years.

I guess I'm just starting to raise some warning signals that we need to contest the legitimacy of that concept against real results. As soon as we start seeing real results then I'll know we're on the right track.

Terra Viva: In what way is it giving people a sense of tranquility?

Dowdeswell: I think for the business community, for example, they often mistake sustainable development for sustainable growth. And, consequently, think that they can colour whatever it is they are doing by calling it sustainable development and continue as in the past.

Now, there are many people in the private sector who are religiously trying to change things for the better because they know it's also good for the bottom line.

I think too for many in government they've found something a concept that has industrialists and environmentalists alike talking to each other. But I don't think it has the same sort of urgency. You know when we talked about lifeless oceans and silent springs 20 years ago when the environmentalist movement was born, there was a real passion, a passion about the environment, a passion about people. I don't sense that same sense of passion and urgency about the concept of sustainable development.

Terra Viva: In the UNEP report, *Poverty and the Environment* you talk about protecting natural capital.

Dowdeswell: I think what the report tries to do is to say that we are shooting ourselves in the foot if we use up all of our natural resources and if we spend the capital rather than living off the Earth's interest.

When we look at how we've degraded our soils how we've denuded our forests how we've polluted our waters, any of those areas we can see that we're using up the natural capital, the natural resources of the Earth.

Poor diet of poor worries FAO

Slashing poverty and hunger require a strategy that makes small farmers better able to produce, to raise their incomes and provide more employment for those who have little land, FAO's Jacques Diouf said yesterday.

He said more resolute action was needed to fight hunger, especially for those hit hardest by economic decline - the rural poor.

Diouf warned that hungry people would never be able to escape the poverty trap. If they were malnourished, they would not be able to work productively to improve their standard of living.

Moreover, poor diet resulted in poor health and low life

expectancy while undernourished children were forced to drop out of school because of learning difficulties.

According to FAO, most of the inhabitants of developing countries lived in the countryside and mainly lived off farming.

In least developed countries, agriculture employed 80 percent of the labour force, accounted for 45 to 65 percent of export earnings, and comprised 33 to 50 percent of the GDP.

FAO statistics showed that 800 million people - a fifth of the developing world's population - were hungry, including one out of every three sub-Saharan Africans.



Speakers and delegates: Pictures Klaus Holting

Society for International Development

Global campaign launched

by Remi Oyo

Parliamentarians and civil society will hold a conference later this year to analyse and monitor progress made towards strengthening human security and development, it was announced yesterday.

Roberto Savio, spokesperson for the organisers, said the conference will be culmination of two years of aggressive and innovative efforts carried out as part of a campaign called "Building Global Human Security".

Initiated by the Society for International Development, an international NGO, the campaign was sustained by regional conferences and special National Days of Reflection held in various parts of the world.

Savio, who is Secretary-General of SID, said the conference is likely to be held in Bonn. SID started off the regional conferences of parliamentarians and the civil society. The earlier meetings were held in Bonn, Kuala Lumpur, Harare, Washington and Brasilia.

SID issued a 12-page report yesterday containing declarations made at the various regional conferences - Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America - involving 12,000 people.

"Much of today's development... leads to concentration of economic opportunity and hence to marginalisation of large numbers of people," it says.

Horacio Morales, President of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, said delegates from 18 Asian-Pacific countries meeting in Kuala Lumpur, had concluded that human institutions must support the needs to self-determination especially those still under the colonial region.

"Sources of additional financial resources for programmes of human security and development should be explored including a reduction of military expenditures by both industrialised and developing

countries", the declaration said.

The African position similarly asked for a redirection of military budgets to social services to alleviate the plight of women and children in the society.

Isaac Akinyele, SID's Coordinator for Africa, said the delegates from 22 African nations at the Harare regional conference also demanded the retention of traditional African development models.

Parliamentarians and members of the civil society from Latin American and Caribbean nations declared at their January Brasilia meeting that "there is need for urgent, ambitious action to improve the population's level of education".

The report from the United States was presented by Robert Berg, President of the International Development Conference. It urged the World Summit for Social Development to "support the steps necessary to reorient current national and international emphasis on economic growth and international trade".

The Europeans at the flag-off conference of the SID Global campaign on Human Security in Bonn, recommended that parliaments and governments redress the "growing imbalance in expenditure between peacekeeping operations and long-term development support".

Inge Kaul, one of the participants at the Bonn conference, said countries "can no longer have a single-handed approach to development".

Kaul, UNDP's director of development studies, said the end of the Cold War had broken down barriers to the extent that Western nations now saw developing markets as competitors.

For Najma Heptulla, deputy Chair of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, parlia-

mentarians could play a role as a link between the government and NGOs.

She said the problem of lack of development and resources common in the developing countries could be alleviated by the equitable distribution of the world's resources especially as there was "tremendous wastage" in the developed nations.

"We parliamentarians should promote tolerance...there is no tolerance among people," said Najma. She also suggested the formation of national commissions to promote social development and an international commission to monitor them.

Early warning mechanisms could ensure the amicable resolution of conflicts, said Hawa-Yakubu Ogede, a Ghanaian Parliamentarian whose continent has suffered increasing civil strife.

She said Africa still needed the understanding and support of the international community in developing and sustaining home-grown alternatives to the debilitating structural adjustment programmes.

Senator Jos Van Gennip of the Netherlands said it was time for all donor countries and institutions to evolve new thought processes towards the development of the Third World.

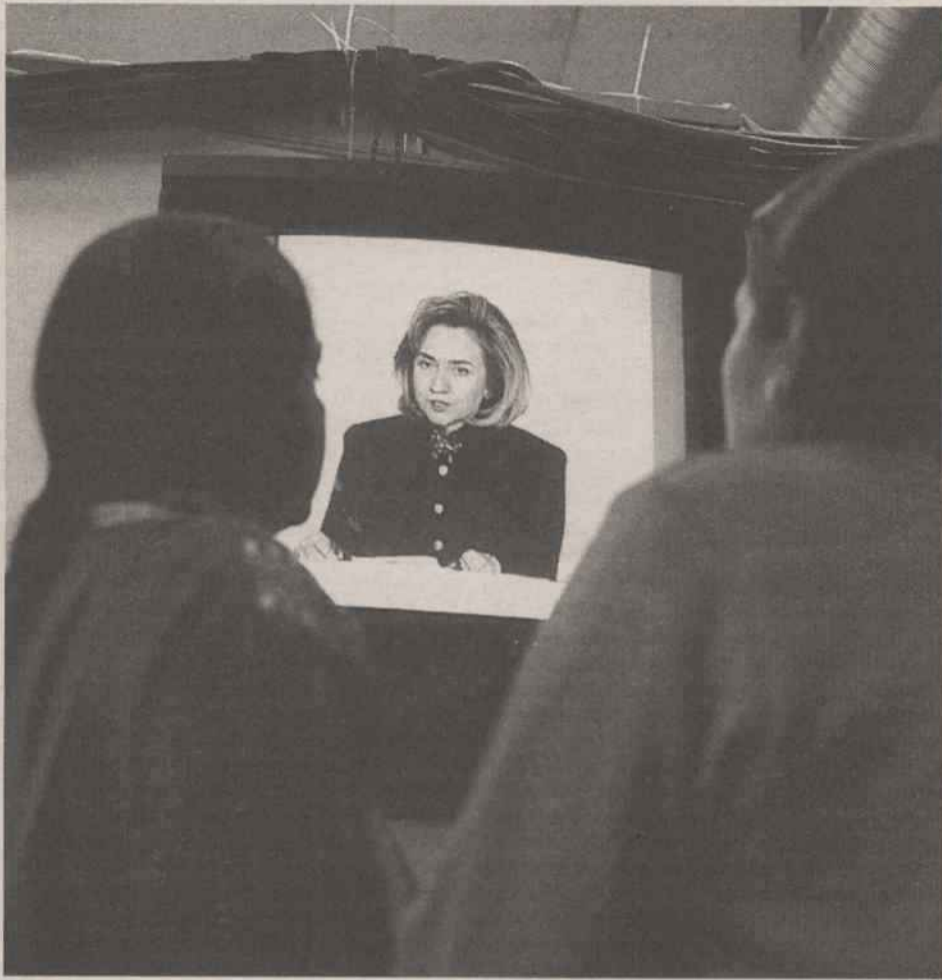
"We donor countries must have a much more humble attitude to the issues of development of the Third World...we should co-exist without imposing our solutions", said Gennip.

Charles Paolillo, Project Director of SID, said the organisation would soon be able to offer up to-date information on developments in pursuance of human security in all nations.

An annual report, tentatively titled a "Human Security and Development Watch" will attempt to cover all issues related to the subject, Paolillo said.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Sense of urgency lost



Two NGO delegates locked out of the auditorium watch U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton on a closed circuit monitor. Picture by Klaus Holsting

Decade of Indigenous People? Not in Copenhagen

by Diego Cevallos

January marked the start of the U.N.-decreed Decade of Indigenous Peoples, but looking around at the Copenhagen summit you wouldn't be able to tell.

There is scant reference to the rights of the estimated 300 million indigenous people worldwide in the summit's draft final declaration. Most native peoples were not consulted by their governments.

In fact, were it not for a few indigenous leaders mostly from Latin America, the issue may have gone largely unnoticed.

One of the few workshops on indigenous peoples organised by NGOs at the Bella Centre had to be called off. Only five people turned up, none of them indigenous.

There was a chorus of angry complaints from about 30 Latin American NGO leaders meeting to prepare a common regional position when they found that the conference's documents did not mention indigenous people, about 20 million of whom live in their region.

Julian Burger of the U.N. Centre for Human Rights warned that there should be more attention for the situation of indigenous peoples, which is "extremely tough" since they have the worst housing and the lowest health and nutrition levels.

Burger is part of a team of international officials that prepared the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a document recognising their cultural specificity and identifying them as nations that need their own lands.

The declaration is still being analysed by governments,

some of which have already come out against it.

"Brazil is a single whole and we do not agree with this concept of (indigenous) nations," Luis Lindenberg Cete, a member of Brazil's official delegation, told Terra Viva.

Both he and Peru's Jaime Stiglich said that their delegations were not going to say anything special about indigenous people at the summit. Stiglich also admitted that his government did not consult Amerindian leaders before coming to Copenhagen.

Both argued that their governments are always in contact with their countries' indigenous organisations which even "are better protected than any of us," in the words of Lindenberg Cete.

Indigenous leaders have made it clear that they intend to pursue their demands. "We are warning governments that it is dangerous for them to keep marginalising us and denying us our right to self-determination," said Juan Lopez, head of the Independent Front of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico.

He warned that when poverty drives them to despair, indigenous people can decide to resort to guerrilla warfare, as the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) did in Mexico.

"In Mexico the government did not consult us. It has come to the summit with positions and promises which, we are certain, will have no real impact on our situation. It's just words," said the Amerindian leader, who comes from Chiapas, the Mexican state where the EZLN launched its guerrilla struggle in January last year.

Two other indigenous leaders, Ecuador's Rafael Pandam and Marcial Fabricano of Bolivia had similar grouses.

They complained that the governments of their countries, which have sizeable Amerindian populations, invited them to Copenhagen "at the last minute," which gave them no time to consult the other indigenous groups and come up with joint positions.

According to a U.N. document circulated at the summit, indigenous people are often victims of discrimination and violence.

In Canada the risk of being murdered is six times higher for them than for the rest of the population, while the 10,000 Yanomami remaining in Venezuela face extermination as a result of economic activity and environmental degradation in their area, the study said.

The summit's draft document mentions that governments recognise and respect the identity of indigenous peoples and support their aspirations for social justice.

Pandam, one of the few indigenous persons included in the list of speakers at the summit's sessions, said he would use the opportunity to call for the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination.

He said one of the reasons his government invited him to Copenhagen was to tell the world the Peruvian military used Amerindians in recent border clashes with Ecuador.

Asked about this, Peru's Stiglich said: "There was no special involvement of indigenous people in the conflict. They do their military service just like any other Peruvian citizen."

No go, NGO

Used to delivering the broadsides from the moral high ground, NGOs took a few hits themselves yesterday at a summit roundtable which discussed poverty and civil participation.

According to Dr. Sadiq Rasheed, an economist with the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, "their lack accountability and broad representation, are elitist in nature and technocratic, and need to change."

He concluded: "NGOs leave much to be desired".

Sociology professor with the University of Buenos Aires, Elizabeth Jelin, also waded in.

She accused NGOs of being accountable only to their sponsors, and added that they ran the risk of external manipulation.

The roundtable was organised by UNESCO and the Comparative Research Program on Poverty.

Back to basics

by Johanna Son and Luis Cordova

Foreign aid needs to be drastically refocused in the future if it is to eradicate absolute poverty, experts said yesterday.

Their message was simple and to the point: a successful aid programme is a temporary crutch that needy countries should one day be able to live without.

At a meeting convened Monday night by the Dutch NGO Novib and London-based Panos speakers said there was a need to increase international aid. But added existing aid must be better used.

"If we look at people as victims and not agents of change, aid won't work," said Max van den Berg, director general of NOVIB. "They are not just people you provide money to and make dependent on you. Aid is about giving new knowledge, access to land, education: it should not be passive."

During the seventies, most ODA went towards addressing basic needs and financing infrastructural projects in poorer countries. That focus had slowly changed toward more socially-oriented needs and participatory programs.

However, only seven percent of bilateral aid from Northern governments was channelled into programmes on primary education, primary health care, water supply systems and family planning.

A new book, 'Let the Dawn Come', funded by Panos and Novib - concludes that while it was hard to set fixed criteria for what made a development

programme successful, themes like employment, social services, food security, land rights and sustainability were good indicators.

Some speakers pointed out that improving the quality of aid may be more productive than pinning hopes on dramatic hikes in foreign assistance from rich countries, which came with strings attached.

"I agree with the 20/20 Initiative and maybe that should even be 50/50 for social development," said Jagadnanda of the India-based Centre for Youth and Social Development.

Other ways of improving the quality of aid included close monitoring of national governments' use of overseas funds, and getting Northern governments and agencies to see aid as a genuine development tool instead of a means to further security or trade interests.

Wangari Maathai of Africa's Green Belt Movement said countries needed to have democratic, transparent systems to use aid wisely. Corrupt governments should be punished for misusing aid funds and should not get their debts forgiven, especially if the money was stolen by dictators and stashed in bank accounts abroad.

Given the reforms that need to be made in aid, Uruguay's Roberto Bissio said: "We support our governments in seeking more aid. There is aid that is disempowering, but it can also be empowering."

Kathleen Selvaggio from Bread for the World said: "We should keep in mind where we're coming from. 20/20 for

all its limitations has a lot of promise to it."

Another forum organised by UNICEF yesterday brought together delegations from North and South to discuss aid. They felt 20/20 is, above all, a formula for drawing attention to the need to channel resources to development. It thus has a political function and cannot be seen as a straight jacket.

Dutch Development Cooperation Minister Jan Pronk, indicating his country's support for the proposal, said it was a political decision that both developed and developing nations have to face up to.

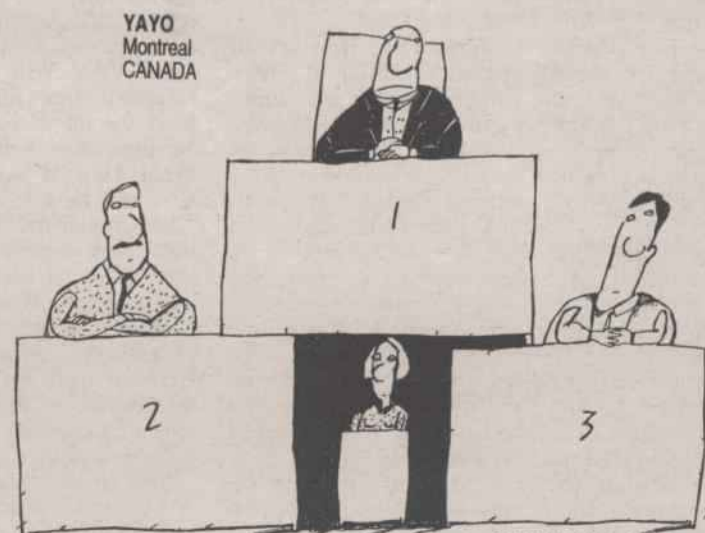
His Norwegian counterpart, Kari Nordheim-Larsen, said that, come what may, 20/20 would be part of Norway's strategy. Also confirming their nations' support were representatives of the Philippines, Venezuela and Benin.

Cielito Habito, Philippine minister for socio-economic planning, said it was not just a matter of quantity, but also of the quality of investment. He disclosed that 25 percent of his country's state budget went to development, while only 12 percent of ODA is used for that purpose.

Mercedes Pulido, Venezuela's minister of family affairs, said "38 percent of our budget is earmarked for social spending. Our problem is efficiency."

The proposal seems to have received quite a bit of support although countries like Britain, Finland, Sweden and France are hesitant to commit themselves to a set formula

World view



From the front page

and the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.

At recent U.N. conferences, the world community has recognised that empowerment of women - that is, the ability to participate freely in political, social and economic space - is essential to resolving issues of poverty, environment and conflict.

The kick-off of the campaign will begin with a discussion between women activists and four parliamentarians on how to bridge the gender gap between government and civil society.

The event, jointly organised by WEDO and Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) will be held at the NGO Forum, Bldg B, from 3-4:45PM. PGA will use the occasion to launch its initiative for the campaign.

Following the debate, from 5-6:30PM, a rally will feature colourful banners, live music and pep talks from an array of outstanding women leaders from all walks of life including environmentalists, indigenous activists and senior U.N. officials.

The NGO Forum activities will be followed by an International Women's Day torchlight rally and march in downtown Copenhagen.



Ela Bhatt. Picture by Klaus Holsting

An Alternative World Bank

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Muhammad Yunus was teaching economics at Bangladesh's Chittagong University in 1976 when he tried to test his text-book theories. The result was the Grameen Bank (grameen means village in Bengali).

In the past few years, the Grameen model has been successfully replicated in other developing countries and even in inner-city North America. Norway alone has 20 Grameen-style banks.

In Copenhagen for the Social Summit, Yunus spoke to Terra Viva's Kalinga Seneviratne.

Terra Viva: What was the spark that set off Grameen?

Yunus: While doing research, I learnt how much families in rural Bangladesh suffer because they did not have access to credit. Small money, often as little as one dollar. When I proposed to a commercial bank that they lend money to these poor people, the bank told me that it was impossible for them to lend money to poor people. There was no one to offer them collateral. All my arguments about why this was important fell on deaf ears.

The only way was for me to be the guarantor myself. I did that and was pleasantly surprised that the poor people were paying back.

I was very excited and I got more money and lent it again. The more it worked the more I got encouraged and I kept on trying to convince the banks that it can work. They wouldn't be convinced. So I thought I will turn the whole

thing into a bank itself.

Terra Viva: This is a proof that trickle down economics does not work.

Yunus: Yes, you can see it that way. But we are not opposed to the trickle down idea, we are opposed to the assumption that the poor people cannot do anything for themselves. In Grameen you have a very clear illustration that poor people given the opportunity can have faith in themselves.

You see it everyday. Today Grameen has two million borrowers, 94 percent of them are women and they carry on their businesses with Grameen loans and a along the way they cross the poverty line. One can see very clearly that one-third of Grameen borrowers have already crossed the poverty line. There's two thirds to go and we will take them out of the poverty trap within five years.

Terra Viva: How is your approach different from rural banks that are coming up in Asian countries?

Yunus: Rural banks are basically an extension of traditional banking. Physically they work in the rural areas but they still operate on the principle that the more you have the more you can get. Grameen bank is turning around the philosophy: we said less you have the higher priority you get. And if you have nothing you get the highest priority.

Grameen is the safest lending you can get, where conventional bankers have half the repayment rate. Grameen

is not high risk at all. Its a very profitable business, not only is it profitable its the most sound financial institution in Bangladesh.

Terra Viva: What is the motivation for paying back when they have borrowed without even a guarantor?

Yunus: Grameen Bank is based on trust. Number two is peer support system and also the very close relationship between the lender and borrower. Grameen bank itself is owned by the borrowers, so the capital comes from the borrowers themselves. Each share costs about 100 taka (2.5 dollars) So that makes up the initial currency of the bank, and the bank borrows money from the market at the commercial rate to lend out money to the borrowers. Revenue it generates cover all our costs and creates a surplus. That way we have no problem. Grameen is a financially viable organisation, we cover our own costs.

Terra Viva: With all these Grameen clones all over the place, Grameen sounds like an alternative World Bank. What kind of say do you have over them?

Yunus: Our links are informal. They usually come to Bangladesh for training. And we have set up Grameen Trust, which is an organised way of imparting training for a Grameen replicator. Through the trust we are offering funding of these replications in different countries.

What we have been arguing and trying to impress on the World Bank to create a micro-finance fund. So that Gram-

een type of programmes can borrow from the World Bank and lend to the poorest because source of funds is a problem for some of these replications.

Terra Viva: Are you bringing this up in Copenhagen?

Yunus: I will be speaking here at the social summit on the need to create a 10 billion dollar micro-finance fund. And to make a commitment to reach out to 100 million poorest families in the world with this credit by the year 2005. If this can be done then you open up the financial capacity and the economic capacity of the poorest people in the world and helping them to get out of the poverty situation. If this summit has a meaning that's what it should be - to help out the billion people who are under demeaning poverty situation. The non-greedy people in the world to go into the market economy and do the non-greedy things.



Muhammad Yunus

Gender agenda

by Mahesh Uniyal

One would think that gender equality should be one of those highly-desirable motherhood themes that no one would disagree about.

Yet, raising the status of women is turning out to be one of the key disputes to be resolved at the first ever global summit to find a solution to world poverty. A draft of the anti-poverty blueprint couches issues in classic U.N. jargon.

"Among people living in poverty, gender disparities are marked especially in the increase in female maintained households ... Therefore, specific measures are needed to address the ... feminisation of poverty," says one of the clauses of the draft Copenhagen declaration.

Translation: women have to bear the greater burden of poverty and the world should do something about it. The fact that this seemingly harmless clause is in square brackets also belies its controversial nature.

But while mostly-male world leaders just talk about raising the status of women, women's groups around the world are showing it by doing it.

One such do-er is the Indian activist Ela Bhatt. "In rural areas especially among the landless farmers, the burden of supporting households is coming on women," she says.

"Among the poor, women have to work, otherwise families cannot survive," says Bhatt, a winner of the Ramon Magsaysay award for her work in organising needy women into self-help credit groups.

More than 70 percent of the nearly 900 million Indians live in the South Asian nation's 500,000 hamlets. Studies have found that in more than a third of rural families, women are sole breadwinners.

According to 1991 national census estimates, the female work participation rate in India is 30 percent. However, Bhatt says this is an underestimate as this does not fully take into account the full contribution of women to the economy.

"If you count all the so-called unproductive work as economic activity, then the female work rate will go up to 60 percent."

Yet the government is investing far less on needy women than what they are contributing to the country's economy," Bhatt says.

Policy planners still do not seem to fully grasp that raising income of poor women is the best way of raising living standards of the poor.

"Almost 90 percent of the cash income in the hands of women goes to upgrading the quality of life of the family as it is invested in better food, health care for children and shelter," says Bhatt.

The most effective way of economic empowerment is through easier access for the poor to working capital, the lack of which is a major reason why developing nations are still struggling to remove poverty despite spending huge sums on social development.

Poorly

More than 90 percent of India's workers are in the unorganised sector, which is poorly serviced by state-run credit delivery systems which give out low interest loans. "The people's sector does have access to both markets and capital, but they are the most monopolistic markets and the most expensive capital."

A small farmer or rural artisan has to sell his or her produce to a middleman at a price which can be as low as a tenth of what it will actually sell in the market for.

In Indian villages, small tillers who are too poor to buy their own seed, often borrow from big farmers to be returned with 250 percent at the time of harvest, says Bhatt. A poor vendor has to borrow at 15 percent per month from the local moneylender, while commercial banks lend at the same rate annually to big entrepreneurs.

Two decades ago, Bhatt started the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in the western coastal state of Gujarat, a credit cooperative for women micro entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas.

The 143,000-member SEWA has now a working capital of 120 million rupees (about four million dollars). SEWA loans have enabled clients to buy electrically-powered sewing machines, irrigation pumps, pneumatic tyres for hand carts, small power tillers and low cost paper recycling machines to increase productivity and be more competitive in markets.

Bhatt is also chairperson of the New York-based Women's World Banking which has 51 affiliated self help women credit groups in 40 countries, servicing 2.5 million clients. Last year it lent out 100 million dollars.

In early April, the body will hold a Global Policy Forum on the Missing Links: Building Finance and Enterprise Systems that work for the Majority, in the Indian capital.

Twenty finance ministers and governors of central banks from around the world, 20 heads or vice-chiefs of bilateral and multilateral lending agencies 20 leaders of Women World Banking affiliates will attend.



MANCHESTER 1995

**100 years
of
international
co-operative
action**

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) celebrates its centenary this year.

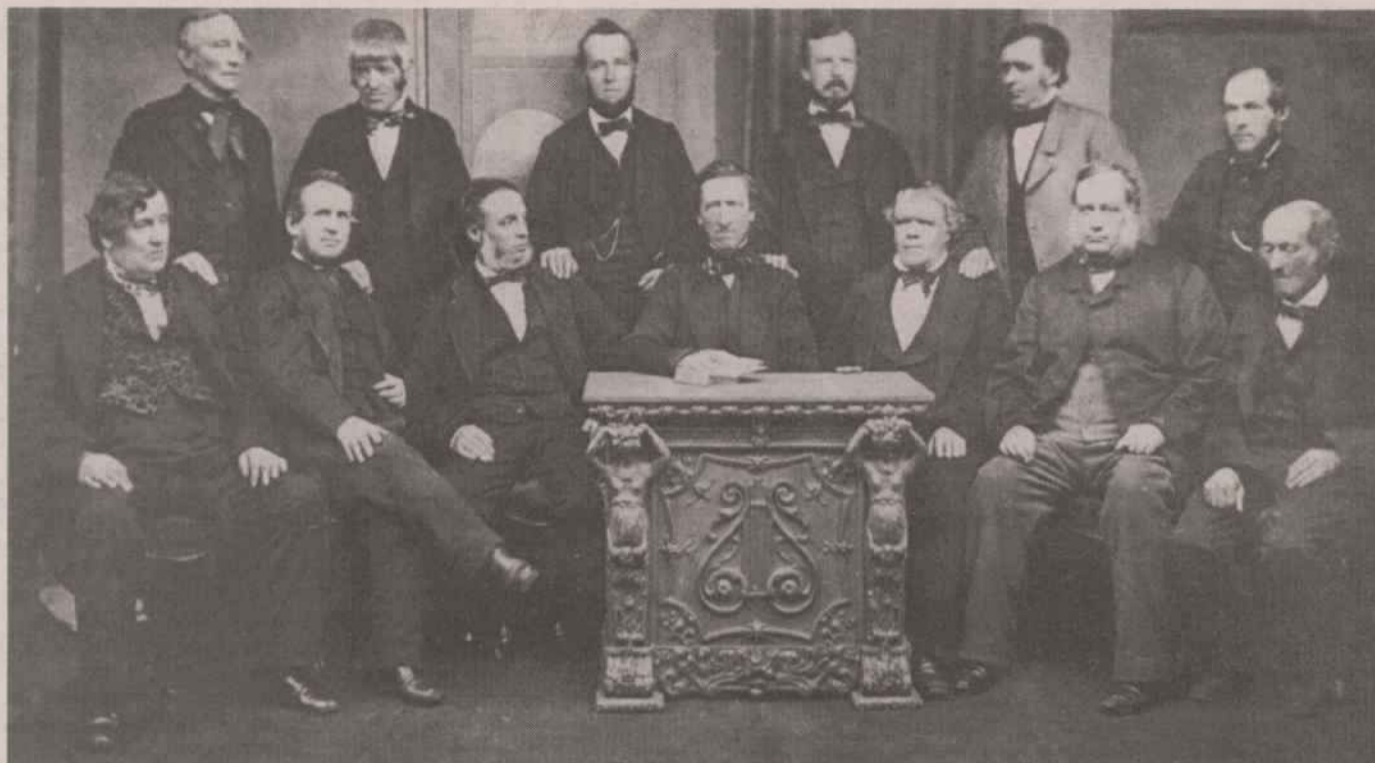
Founded in London in 1895, the ICA brings together co-operative organisations from around the world. Their members are active in all sectors of activity, including agriculture, banking, worker-owned industrial and service co-ops, fisheries, housing, tourism and consumer co-operatives.

IPS and the ICA have produced this special supplement of Terra Viva to coincide with the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995). As the U.N. Secretary-General wrote in May 1992: "Co-operatives, by their very existence, contribute to the achievement of broad social progress."

In addition, the ICA Development Programme has close to forty years experience in technical assistance for co-operative development. Its focus is on institution-building, human resource development, women's integration and strategic planning.

The examples of co-operative action which are described in this supplement are only a small cross-section of the work carried out by ICA members. The ICA has over 200 member organisations from 91 countries, representing more than 750 million individuals worldwide.

With its first hundred years behind it, the ICA looks to an active development role in the future, helping to build strong, viable co-operatives in the developing countries.



Thirteen of the original pioneers

The Co-operative Movement

Spanning the globe

by Ian Williamson

Right across Europe, from Portugal to Greece, and from the South of Italy to the north of Scandinavia, retail co-operatives are serving their members with the necessities of life - and the luxuries too - just as they are in other continents.

If you go for a touring holiday in Scandinavia, you could fill up with co-op petrol, stay overnight in a co-op hotel and change your travellers' cheques at a co-op bank.

Stroll around Moscow and you find yourself on Rochdale Street, a tribute to the world's first successful co-op which was established in Lancashire in 1844. Or if you are after some wine to bring home from a trip to France, you could visit the local 'cave cooperative' where it is generally possible to taste before you buy.

Co-ops in all these countries, and many more besides, are part of a co-operative family which embraces no fewer than 750 million individual members throughout the world. They can be groups of fishermen in Ghana, wheat farmers in the United States, foresters in Sweden or taxi drivers in China - and they all have one thing in common: respect for what are still known everywhere as the Rochdale Principles, the code of practice of the pioneering Lancashire weavers who first developed the co-operative system 150 years ago.

From the humble beginnings of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society and its first little shop in Toad Lane, the idea of running businesses on co-operative lines, owned and controlled by their members, spread rapidly to other parts of Britain and then to Europe and beyond. In those dark and far off days, the co-operative idea often gave working people their first

real taste of economic freedom and independence.

Nowadays co-operatives from nearly every economic sector and from over 100 countries in every continent are united under the umbrella of the International Co-operative Alliance, a non-governmental organisation founded in 1895 and now headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mary Treacy, ICA's Director of Communications, is quick to point to the sheer diversity of co-operative businesses on a world scale. "People often assume that most co-ops are retail stores, but in fact our membership covers a vast range of activities such as agriculture, fishing, insurance, tourism, housing and banking," she says. "In the industrialised countries, one of the fastest growing sectors during these days of high unemployment has been worker-owned co-ops."

ICA provides co-operatives with an international forum at which they can exchange experiences and explore ways of developing trade and other business links across national frontiers. Another of its principal aims is to promote the six co-operative principles first drawn up by the Rochdale Pioneers, and to adapt them when necessary to the world's fast changing commercial and social environment. Those principles are:

- * Open and voluntary membership
- * Democratic control - one person one vote
- * Limited interest on invested capital
- * A fair return of surplus, or profits to members
- * Co-operative education
- * Co-operation between co-

operatives

ICA also does much to promote the ideas of co-operation in developing countries. It has established offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote the co-operative way of economic and social progress and it has persuaded many governments in the Third World that a healthy co-operative sector of the economy is crucial for a nation's well-being.

The significance of ICA as a world body can be measured by the respect in which it is held by the United Nations (with which it is formally linked) and international leaders. Javier Perez de Cuellar (former U.N. Secretary-General), Rajiv Ghandi (the late Prime Minister of India), Prime Minister Miyazawa of Japan and ILO's Deputy Director General are all leaders who have addressed the ICA in recent years.

Every two years, the Secretary-General of the United Nations emphasises the role co-operatives play in economic and social development in his report to the General Assembly. In July 1994, for example, his report concluded that "co-operatives contribute substantially to the common good in market economies, principally by improving the efficiency and quality of the economy, but also by assuring democratisation and environmental rationality. They constitute a model for a people-centred and sustainable form of societal organisation, based on equity, justice and subsidiarity."

The Action Programme for the World Summit for Social Development also underlines the contribution of co-operatives when it proposes to "utilise and develop more fully the potential and contribution of co-ops for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradi-

cation of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration."

The international co-operative movement has many success stories to its credit. According to the National Co-operatives Business Association, in the United States there are 47,000 co-operatives, including some big household names like Sunkist or Land O'Lakes, Nationwide Insurance, Welch or Ocean Spray, which generate more than \$100 (+++) in annual economic activity and serve as many as 100 million Americans or 40 percent of the population.

Co-ops control 99 percent of Sweden's dairy production, 95 percent of Japan's rice harvest, 75 percent of western Canada's grain and oil seed output and 60 percent of Italy's wine production. Some of the major commercial banks in Europe are co-operatively owned or organised, including such giants as Germany's DG Bank, Holland's Rabobank and France's Credit Agricole. Almost 100 percent of Japan's fishermen are organised in co-operatives.

In developing countries too, co-operatives are making a major difference in people's lives. In India, for example, they launched 'Operation Flood' to provide a milk distribution system for the whole of the country, with the aim of alleviating the problem of malnutrition, especially in towns and cities. Now, thanks to the national milk grid, a highly intricate system of collecting and distributing milk from even the most isolated regions, co-operatives ensure that the entire population receives regular supplies. Another example from India is the Shri Mahila Sewa Sahkari Bank, a co-operative of self-employed illiterate rural peasant women who

earn their living as street vendors and seamstresses. The co-operative provides a place for 25,000 women to build savings and obtain loans to buy the equipment which can change their lives.

Perhaps the most famous movement in the world is the Mondragon co-operatives of the Basque region of Spain, which have built a virtually complete economy in microcosm. In addition to more than 20,000 jobs in almost 100 worker-owned industries, the Mondragon Movement also provides housing, education, consumer goods and financial services.

This year is the 100th birthday of the international co-operative movement, commemorating the founding of the ICA in 1895. 1994 was the 150th anniversary of the Rochdale pioneers. The original 'home of co-operation' in Toad Lane, Rochdale, where the Pioneers' first store has been turned into a museum, is now regularly visited by groups from as far away as Burma, Kenya or Japan who come to see their co-operative 'roots'.

The tiny seeds sown in Rochdale in 1844 and blown in the winds of change since then have survived the turmoil of world wars and revolutions, political and social upheavals, and are growing healthily today in more countries than ever before. It's a remarkable achievement and one worth remembering next time you visit a co-op store - whether it's in Slough, Sierra Leone, Switzerland or Sri Lanka!

**Iain Williamson is
Manager, Information
Services, Co-operative
Union, United Kingdom**





Walking the tightrope

Tokyo (IPS) - What began as a small consumer cooperative in Japan has grown into a successful enterprise with 18 million members after a long battle against the dominance of big supermarkets and opposition from retailers worried by the competition it posed.

The Japan Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), which opened its first office in 1952, has now become the largest cooperative in the country.

"We have learned to walk the tightrope between Japan's indomitable private sector and the tight grip the government has traditionally had over society. As you can imagine it has been an uphill battle," says Akira Kurimoto of JCCU's international division.

JCCU's growing presence marks a new phenomenon in Japanese consumerism - the recognition of consumer cooperatives which are traditionally known for their effort to provide safe food products.

Agricultural cooperatives, which are heavily subsidised by the government, have been around in Japan since the 19th century. But Kurimoto says the concept of the JCCU is new because it has nothing to do with the state.

"We depend on no one for assistance. We are a pure grassroots organisation and we fought step by step."

The concept of consumerism was developed in Japan in the 1970s as the economy grew and the buying power of the public became stronger. JCCU offered consumers a non-profit organisation selling safe goods directly from the producer.

That was an entirely new phenomenon for the Japanese so it took some time for the concept to gain full acceptance. The cooperatives first had to break through the dominance of big supermarkets and department stores.

"It also meant we had to fight against 1.6 million local retailers who have always opposed our presence because it is extra competition for them," explains Kurimoto.

"We were up against a wall because these people provided valuable votes to the Liberal Democratic Party which had ruled Japan for almost three decades."

Observers say the popularity of cooperatives indicates that more Japanese are attaching importance to social consciousness, which these grassroots organisations have come to symbolise.

JCCU campaigns for lasting peace and has been working to raise awareness of Japan's war responsibilities in Asia, environmental preservation and product reliability.

It also runs medical cooperatives, hospitals and community clinics, placing emphasis

by Suvendrini Kakuchi

on preventive medicine.

JCCU has expanded its activities into the international arena as well. It became a member of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1988.

Pradip Machima, an official at ICA's Asia-Pacific regional office in New Delhi, says JCCU is funding an ICA project to train consumer cooperatives in the region, even in countries which are not ICA members. "It is one of the biggest ICA projects in the Asia-Pacific region."

JCCU also has a gender awareness training programme to promote the concept of equal participation of both sexes in agriculture and marketing.

Last year, three Fijian women came to Japan for training in the management of local cooperative supermarkets and polishing up administrative skills.

Kurimoto says 95 percent of JCCU's board members are women. "Our consumers are mostly housewives, so it is important that more women run the co-ops."

The JCCU official considers the experience of working with ICA important, but says it has its limitations. "ICA is a big organisation because it has 750 million members around the world. But the budget is small. The secretariat is weak. Members should give more so that ICA can expand and strengthen its collaboration," says Kurimoto.

Last year, JCCU provided ICA with 25 million yen (about 250,000 dollars) plus a staffer in the Geneva headquarters.

Zenrosai, the National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives, is another successful cooperative and a member of JCCU. It joined ICA in 1992.

The organisation, which has 12 million members, began projects focusing on cooperative insurance schemes with ICA last year. Spokesman Akiyoshi Yoshizawa says Zenrosai and ICA members get together once a year to discuss insurance schemes for consumers.

Zenrosai is planning to expand its activities with ICA in the next couple of years. "We want our presence to grow in the Asia-Pacific and we can do that with ICA. Our expansion plans are not for financial benefits but purely for the development of the co-op concept in the region," says Yoshizawa.

Cooperatives here are also busy trying to keep afloat amid the competition posed by huge discount shops that have mushroomed in Japan.

Romanian Youth Rescued

Co-Op as Family

by Jenni Thomson

Five years ago, several co-operative members in Cornwall were so appalled by the tragedy of the children in Romanian orphanages that they decided to go and give practical assistance. They included James Pentney and Steve Canning who were both experienced psychiatric nurses.

The six months they spent working in the orphanages convinced them that it was essential to remove the youngsters from their institutionalised existence and to place them in their own homes.

When they returned they asked their local cooperative

society for help in raising the necessary funds to purchase and equip a house in Bucharest which would provide a base for a new life for some of Romania's most deprived youngsters.

The house was to be run on the same lines as a similar scheme in Devon, known as the Plymouth Independent Living Centre, where handicapped young people were able to live independently of any institutional care.

In August 1990 the team of James, Steve and Jenni Thomson, member relations officer of Cornwall Co-opera-

tive Retail Services headed out to Bucharest to search for a suitable property and to work with an orphanage director to find suitable youngsters to live in it.

A beautiful old house was identified (one of the few not razed to the ground in the Ceausescu regime) and a sale was agreed. However, the sale was concluded the following day and our first boys moved in that afternoon. A great deal of work had to be done to renovate the house but this was part of the plan - a skilled builder was to come over from England to teach the boys basic building skills.

However, the builder with his tools and equipment, as well as all the furniture for the house were stuck in the Customs compound of the Co-op lorry for three days.

The excitement was intense when it finally arrived. A management committee was set up to run the house with three adults, including the Orphanage Director, and the four boys. The team returned to Cornwall to make plans for phase 2.

In 1991 a major charitable trust provide the money for the purchase of a house and smallholding 15 miles outside Bucharest.

Iosif and Sorin, two of our original boys, wanted to move there to take responsibility for the new house and its six residents and in this they were assisted by a farmer from Cornwall, who taught the new youngsters the skills of farming a smallholding. Eggs, fruit and vegetables not only supplied this home but were

also sent to the house in Bucharest.

We were by now becoming concerned that we had set up a system which, although very small, was proving highly successful, but had no provision for girls. This became our highest priority for 1992 when we were able to buy a flat in Bucharest and rescue four girls from an orphanage.

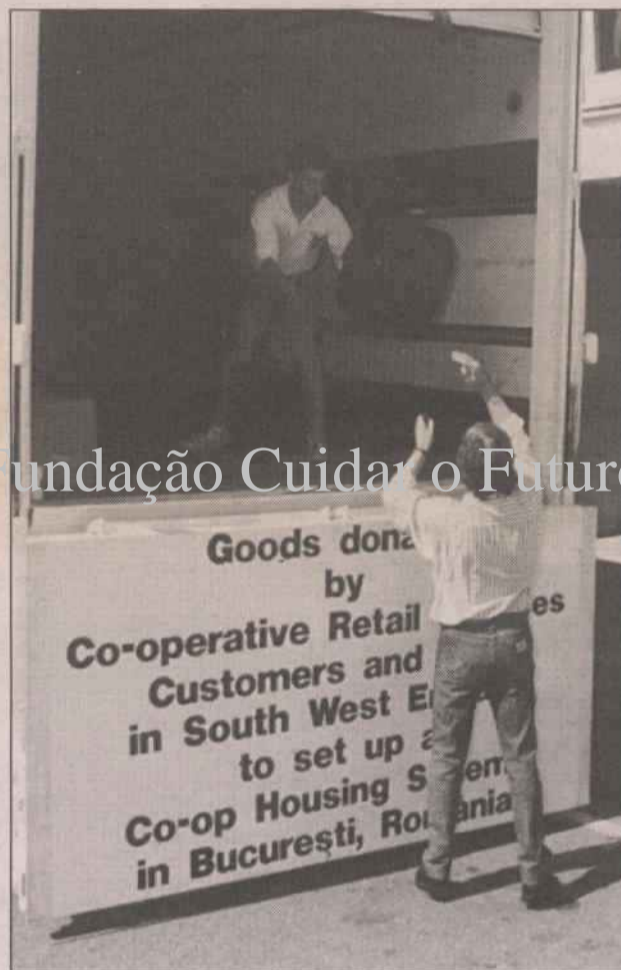
By this time the three adults had dropped out of the management committee and the young people were taking total responsibility for management of the housing co-ops. The girls were very quick to adapt and regular meetings were held between all the houses.

The original house was being run as a night shelter for Bucharest's sewer children, where baths, clothes, food and advice were dispensed and our young people were prepared to share their own beggarly wage with these destitute children.

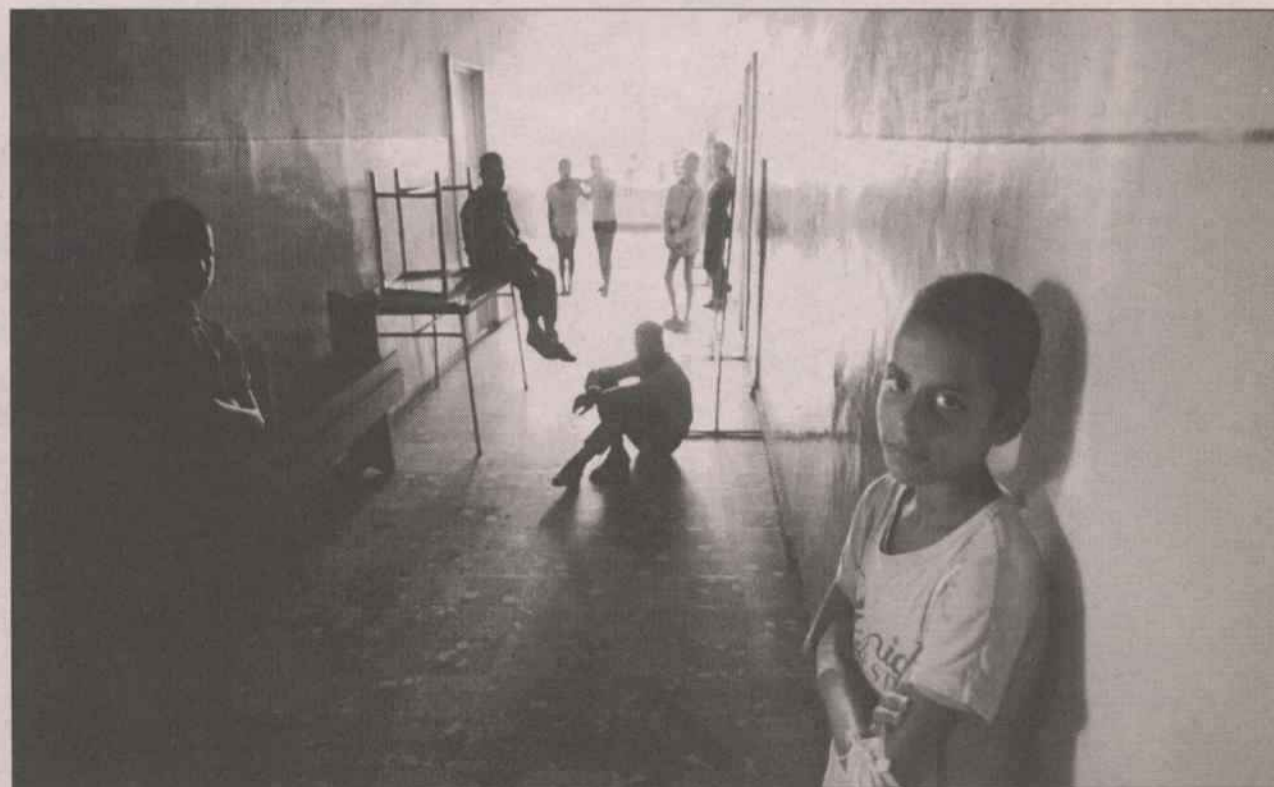
This has been the most important aspect of the work we have been doing, to watch the personal development of our young people, to see their self confidence grow and to know that they understand the whole co-operative philosophy of sharing and self help.

The work continues to expand with the purchase of another house just outside Bucharest. This is specifically for physically handicapped young people who are being assisted to lead independent lives by other members of the co-op.

A tailoring workshop is being set up next door to the house in order to give residents a chance of earning their living. It is an integral part of the concept that providing housing is not enough - there must also be scope for becoming self sufficient.



The Coop lorry off to Romania



The boys at Orphanage No. 9



The Pavement Dwellers

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

by Jenni Thomson

Treated like vagrants, the squatters in Bombay's inner city join forces and fight back. Rehmat Kamarshiek hurries by the shanties in her central Bombay slum, skirting a family hammering flat pieces of machinery for the scrap metal dealer. Pockets of stench well up occasionally as we are led past impromptu garbage heaps of rotting vegetables.

The 30-year-old woman runs ahead to tidy her kitchen. As we arrive, she is prodding her two children and her father, preparing them to pose for a picture. The family's goats rest in the open doorway. Her husband is at work.

She smiles and motions inside the shack. It is a 10 by 10 foot square, a partition separating the "kitchen" from the front room. Pieced together with scrap lumber and corrugated metal, the shack sits on the sidewalk, buttressed against the outer wall of a factory.

That wall provides a solid surface for metal kitchen shelves. Gleaming metal pots and pans shimmer as she fires up the gas stove ... which would be considered camping equipment in North America. She knows it is just a shack, but still the pride shows on her face as she conducts a tour of the tiny squatters' dwelling.

Like the thousands of other "pavement dwellers" in inner Bombay, Rehmat and her husband work long hours to eke out a living. She pieces together plastic flowers, which on a good day can bring her 15 rupees (about 65 cents). When her husband can get seasonal embroidery work, he makes as much as 900 rupees in a month ... more than \$40.

In the local Maharashtran dialect, Rehmat explains that both she and her husband are illiterate. "We hope our children will grow up and get jobs, and their life will be better", she says through a translator. Her hope for a better future is well founded. Both children attend the local school, and Rehmat saves a little money each month toward a house.

At the time she was born (literally) on the street, the pavement dwellers were treated like vagrants. Every few weeks the Bombay Municipal Corporation would send in a crew to raze the shanties that lined the streets. The local authorities viewed the squatters as a nuisance ... derelict people who detracted from the city's streetscape.

By 1985, SPARC, a group working with Bombay's poorest communities resolved to conduct a survey of the pavement dwellers. The survey showed that in one section of Central Bombay there were 27,000 people living in street

huts, and that most of them were self-employed or worked in a low paying jobs nearby.

One surprising conclusion was that far from being vagrants, the street people were hard-working, long-term residents who needed to live in the inner city to be close to a job or to markets for their goods. Driven from the countryside by joblessness or the loss of land, these people found work and housing that was marginal, but enough to keep them fed and sheltered.

Amid the harassment from municipal authorities, women in the street slums formed credit co-operatives. They needed a way to save money, and they needed access to credit at reasonable rates. The money lenders charged up to 240 per cent interest per year. SPARC (the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres) worked with the women to set up small, grassroots credit unions. Like other women formin credit unions across India, they called them Mahila Milan, meaning "women together".

Rehmat Kamarshiek is a leader in the women's credit union in the Apna slum area surrounding her hut. She and a few other women visit the 110 street dwellings in the area. Most of the members make a small cash deposit or loan payment each day. In times of crisis, the women can ask for

an emergency loan of 500 rupees (\$25). For starting a business, they can borrow up to 5,000 rupees.

"We have over 1 million rupees saved for housing among 600 families" says Rehmat, back at the credit union office — barely larger than her home. The credit union isn't able to provide mortgages for members' housing, but it helps women establish a credit record. SPARC helps the women approach lending agencies to get mortgage. Rehmat's eyes sparkle as she discusses the housing project taking place nearby.

She looks forward to the day she can take her savings and make a down payment on a unit in the Area Housing Co-operative Society. Government loans have long been available for slum dwellers to get involved in government housing schemes. But the local housing co-operatives saw the graft and waste that government-sanctioned contractors bring to a project, and held out for projects in which they could control the location, design and construction of the housing units.

It took seven years for government officials to agree to let the co-operatives control all aspects of their projects. The government plans called for a bathroom in each house, but the people — long used to communal toilets or

no facilities at all — chose to install one toilet for each four families, and a tap for each 15 families. This freed up space for more room in the houses, or for shared spaces, like a child care centre.

The government never believed they could build houses" says SPARC program officer Prema Gopalan. "Now they're proving to them that they can save the money".

SPARC receives funding from the Canadian Co-operative Association to assist in grassroots development work. Unlike many development groups, SPARC works to strengthen other organizations while maintaining almost no infrastructure of its own. When training is needed, SPARC helps members of a community-based organization develop the necessary skills to become trainers. Rehmat has recently returned from an exchange with slum dwellers in South Africa, and often travels to rural areas sharing her knowledge about women's savings co-operatives.

In another section of Bombay, in a different slum, Sister Shakumpala oversees the opening ceremony for a women's credit union that has moved to a bigger building. When the men involved in other credit unions show up, they take the best chairs and set the agenda for the occasion.

The Sister will have none of that. When her turn comes, she makes up for the men's intrusion by holding the floor for 10 minutes, while she describes the problems faced by women in the slums.

Her sermon starts with her arrival in Bombay, reassigned by her religious order. The people she met expected hand-outs. She started working with

women from the community who arranged to be away from their home duties, or who happen to stop and listen to the street-front ceremony.

Her simple story of how discipline and hard work are more dependable and worthwhile than handouts has no doubt been repeated endlessly. That's what parables are for — to share values to a wide audience in language they can understand.

After the ceremony, group pictures are taken. Sister Shakumpala lines up the women members of the credit union for a picture. After being on the sidelines, they have their moment together to celebrate their success in building a 700-member organization with more than 60,000 rupees in assets.



On the farm in India

By Eric Eggertson

Skearia Daniel lifts the coconut to eye level and swiftly hacks the top off with a machete. He grins, and offers the yellow-green globe to a visitor before attacking another coconut. His wife, Santhamma, daughter Celine, and son Simsom hold up several varieties of bananas for the guests to sample. The small yellow ones are succulent and sweet, while the long, ochre-skinned fruit are fibrous, like a pear.

They watch intently as the cool coconut milk is drained from the shell. If someone appears in danger of finishing a banana, a handful more are

pushed forward for consideration. It is typical Indian hospitality; fairly intense but well-meaning. The choice of offerings was easy; the coconuts were harvested from the soaring palm trees that rise above the family's small farm in the hills of Kerala State. Banana trees, tapioca plants, and some spice plants dot the fertile plot of land.

What the family (including Skearia's grey-haired father) doesn't eat from their crops is sold at market. And every morning and afternoon, a family member carries the leftover milk to the roadside 40 metres from their cow

shed for delivery to the local dairy co-operative.

The co-op is named after the village of Padinjattukizhakku (meaning East-West, for its location between mountains to the east and the sea to the west), but it's not really a village. Aside from a small market a mile down the road, the homes are distributed evenly about the area on quarter- and half-acre plots. After the Land Reform Act of 1952 (following India's independence), land was redistributed to farm labourers from the companies, landlords and rich farmers who owned most of the country's land. Today, each plot provides livelihood for a family. And even a quarter-acre can provide a good yield in the rain forests of Kerala State.

With 28 million people, a

strong tradition of education, and very little usable land that hasn't already been claimed, Kerala's main export has been well-educated people. Everywhere you go in India, a clerk or administrator turns out to be from Kerala.

For 15 years Skearia was such an export. He worked as a nurse for the Indian Air Force, serving at whichever base he was stationed. Many of his neighbours left for jobs in Delhi, Bombay or Saudi Arabia. But his family stayed in Padinjattukizhakku, and Skearia wanted to return and join his father in tending the land.

Shortly after his return, the local church-sponsored Edamon Social Services Society set about helping dormant dairy co-operatives become

Dairy co-operative helps family make ends meet

reactivated, though the state federation of dairy co-operatives was thriving, farmers in this area had not felt a strong tie to the co-operative.

Now, with financial help from the Canadian Co-operative Association and Nova Scotia's Scotsburn Dairy Co-operative, the local farmers are learning more about dairy farming and the value of co-operatives. Employees and committee members at the 10 milk co-operatives assisted by the Edamon organization have studied animal husbandry, how to be an effective elected official, environmental awareness, fodder cultivation, milking, sanitation, and a string of other topics. In the past they sold milk to private vendors, who stopped purchasing during periods of oversupply. Now, the state federation buys all their milk, and sells it under a name brand. The dairy co-operatives in this hilly rainforest area share veterinary and other services. Five years ago, the Daniels became members of the local co-operative, which now boasts 350 member families out of 1200 in the area. Their two cows eat up half of the income from milk sales in feed. But that still leaves more than 40 rupees a day (\$2.00 Canadian), plus their income from their crops. With no mortgage, vehicles, heavy equipment, or high tech dairy gear to pay off, that money goes directly to meeting the needs of the family.

* Eric Eggertson is editor of Credit Union Way Magazine. He recently completed a reporting mission to India on behalf of the Canadian Co-operative Association.

Women milk producers pouring milk into the coup



Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Cooperative challenge to commercial healthcare

Rio de Janeiro (IPS) - A cooperative organisation set up in competition to the collective healthcare businesses in Brazil 28 years ago currently has 61,400 doctors on its roles, and 8.5 million patients.

Access to adequate medical care is a serious problem for the average Brazilian citizen. The state system is bankrupt - lacking even the most basic medicines - and even getting to see a doctor means endless hours of waiting.

This has led to the aggressive development of commercial medical establishments over the last 30 years - many of them transnationals.

"The development of this type of enterprise led to doctors losing status, becoming pressured - like pieceworkers - to deal with more patients in the same amount of time and

by Ricardo de Bittencourt

using the minimum of clinical tests to make a diagnosis," explains Dr. Fernando Silva Rosas.

The monthly contributions for these private healthcare systems are beyond the budget of most.

"Unimed (the National Confederation of Medical Cooperatives) stemmed from the idea of a group of doctors interested in decent working conditions and, above all, the valuing of health professionals. Making the dream reality was difficult, but the Santos pioneers overcame the obstacles," says Djalma Contreiras, vice-president of the

confederation.

The first Unimed cooperative was formed by 17 doctors in the coastal city of Santos in 1967, and Brazil now has 230 individual cooperatives divided into 17 regional federations all operating on the same principles.

Unimed founding idealist and current president Edmundo Castilho says: "I can assure you that nearly 80 percent of the Unimed groups participate directly in the foundation. Once I'd proved that the idea was successful in Santos I spent nearly all my weekends travelling the country and spreading the idea."

At the same time each individual cooperative is totally autonomous to enable the services offered to be tailored to local needs.

"This has created some differ-

ences between the various Unimed centres," explains Unimed director in Rio, Flavio Monteiro. "In some cities of the interior it is easier to found our own clinics and hospitals when the majority of local doctors join the cooperative."

"In the big cities competition from the commercial health enterprises and the higher cost of installations makes it much more difficult to own a hospital, so we have to contract services to other institutions, meaning different costs," says Monteiro.

The bulk of the original Unimed subscribers came from the working classes, but the social profile changed following the economic crisis when many middle class families found themselves worse off.

"But there are some aspects more important than the monthly cost," says Unimed member Maria Conceicao Flores. "It's very important to me that the doctor dealing with me is directly interested in the success of the treatment and isn't just an auxiliary."

The doctors also find working in a cooperative different. "The profits are often used to finance new services for our members," says Rosas. "The satisfaction of deciding if and how we will do this is worth more than the money. Participation is a very important aspect."

"When we receive a complaint about the behaviour, ethics or professionalism of a colleague we meet and discuss the issue in a true cooperative light, where professional solidarity is influenced by social

responsibility and the cooperative philosophy."

The confederation brings out a weekly publication, 'Unimed Executive', to keep cooperative directors up to date on the organisational aspects and founding principles of cooperativism.

"We are not motivated by money but the opportunity to offer doctors the chance for decent, ethical, and technically advanced working conditions," says Contreiras. "We operate at the same level as the commercial healthcare systems but with something more than they have: an ideal."

NGO NEWS



An NGO Forum supplement

EVENTS

8th

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.

Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres

1) Seminar on women's political and social participation in northern and southern countries. Opening of 3 day seminar. 09:00 12:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,3,30*

Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation

1) Tough Remedy Silent Trade On SAPs and their impacts on Food Security and Women. Attending: Per PinstrupAndersen, IFPRI, Rachel Polestico, the Philippines, Dr. Vandana Shiva, India, Lena Kirjavanen, FAO, World Bank and moderators. 09:00 12:45
Conference

English
G,2,39

AFS Intercultural Programs

2) Building Global Citizenship for a Diverse World
Presentation of a variety of practical examples of how to achieve intercultural understanding and social integration. 09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*

Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development

Asian Rural Indigenous Women's Rights
Women's rights Human Rights with regard to rural indigenous communities. 09:00 12:45
Conference

English
H,1,40*

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,3,23*

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*

English
C,3,22*

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

Indigenous Peoples and Selfgovernment as a Means for Coping with Soc. Injustice
Social Injustice in democratic systems, landright, selfgovernment 09:00 18:45
Conference
English, Spanish
C,2,08*

International Network of Small Island Developing States NGOs

INSNI Daily Caucus
Overall Conference and Strategy. 09:00 10:45
Other
English, Spanish, French
C,2,15*

Colectivo Radial Feminista Communication, Globalization and Women

In a Changing World 09:00 12:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,3,21*

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*

Women for Women: A research and Study Group

Feminization of Poverty: Bangladesh Perspective
Poverty 09:00 10:45
Video film
English
C,2,09*

The Family Human Rights

Multi ethnic Show. / Music. 09:00 10:45
Music
English
C,3,31*

OPEDISA Organisation for Peace and Disarmament in South Africa

Human rights during and after war Refugees and development. 09:00 10:45
Workshop

NGO Peace Group

Kvindedag. Women's Day
Bedstemødres bekymringer. Bosniske kvinder. 80 years' involvement for peace, women's rights and int. solidarity. The role of women in peace making. 09:00 20:45
Other
English, Danish
C,4,32

FonolaSol

Kvinder og folkeoplysning. Eks. fra Latinamerika og Norden
Video and slides. 09:00 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,3,24*

Taller Salud, Inc.

La violencia mudica contra las mujeres: Otro impedimento para su desar
Relacion Mdicopaciente. 09:00 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
H,1,41*

Kvinnefronten (Women's Front Norway)

Market Liberalisme & Women's Liberation
Why did Women in Norway say No to the European Union? 09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,17*

International Migrants Rights Committee

Migration & Integration: Safeguarding Migrants Rights and Pluralism
Migration 09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,13*

Scheduled by the Danish NGO Forum Host Committee

Keynote-speakers

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

March 8, 11.00-12.45 am: Women

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

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

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

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

Conference Agenda

9.00- 9.05 am

Welcome:
Welcoming remarks by ICSW President Dirk Jarrç, and introduction

of the Danish Minister

9.05-9.15 am

Opening of the Conference:
By Danish Minister of Social Affairs, Karen Jespersen

9.15-9.20 am

Introduction of Panel and Moderator:
Introduction by President of AISEC International

9.20-10.20 am

Moderator (Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, sister of President Ramos, Philippines) conducts panel of three speakers. Each speaker gets 20 minutes.

Speaker 1: Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources, Canada

Speaker 2: Mahbub ul-Haq, Special Advisor, UNDP

Speaker 3: Wangari Maathai, Coordinator, Kenyan Green Belt Movement

10.20-11.00 am

Moderator conducts session open to the floor.

11.00-11.05 am

Introduction of Panel and Moderator:
Introduction by AIESEC International

11.05-12.05 am

Moderator conducts panel of three speakers. Each Speaker gets 20

minutes.

Speaker 1: Business representative (BIO Cate, Microfinance Olive Giscard D'Estaing have been invited by AIESEC)

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

12.05-12.55

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

12.55-13.00

Closing of Conference:
Closing Remarks by Ambhorn Meesook or Hemsing Hurryng (ICSW)

Social Democratic Party
"Storbyens Marginalgrupper"

13:00 - 14:45

Other
English
G,1,35

Anti-Slavery International
"Women as Property - Women and Property"

Child marriage. Marriage affecting the rights of women.

13:00 - 14:45

Workshop
English
C,2,09*

March 8, 9.00-10.45:

NGO plenary-meeting.
- Panel discussion

- Questions-answer session about negotiations in the governmental process
Place: B. 1, 05 (Conference hall, Global Village)





An NGO Forum supplement

Indvandrekvindeforeningen Soldue Minority Women and Culture Festival

09:00 10:45
Other

D,1,34

Indvandrekvindeforeningen Soldue Minority Women and Racism

Violence against women. Family
reunion, visibility contra exclusion.
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,2,10*

Int Architects Designers Plan- ners for Social Responsibility

Preparations for Habitat II

09:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,2,07*

Womens World Summit Foundation

Prize for rural women
Empowerment of rural women +
economic advancement of rural
women.
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,4,33

International People's Health Council

Social diseases and women's health.

09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,2,14*

Center for Social Integration and Differentiation

Social Exclusion, Social Rights,
Social Integration
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
C,3,29*

Forum for afskaffelse af den Tvungne Arbejdsløshed

Sustainable Employment
Global perspectives, structural
unemployment, strategies for abol-
ishing forced unemployment.
09:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,2,06*

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 10:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,3,19*

Action Group for Social Development

The Follow up of the programme of
WSSD

09:00 10:45
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.

09:00 10:45
Other
English
C,2,11*

Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK

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

The Danish Family Planning Association, Sex and Society

Workshop on Women And Health in
relation to Education and Social
Integration
Women Health Social intergration
Education
09:00 10:45
Workshop
English
H,1,43

World Assembly of Youth Youth Caucus

09:00 20:45
Other

C,2,16*

Association des Villages Mou- kandi pour L'Environnement et

la Santé
Découverte de AVMED au Gabon
Banque mondiale pour les ONG.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
French
C,3,22*

Hernandiana Foundation

Education and Social Develop- ment

Seek coincidences and unify educa-
tional criterions for Social Develop-
ment.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,2,10*

FEMVISION (Coordinadora Europea de Mujeres Empresaria- rias)

Female Vision of MicroOrganisation
Financial freedom to create colla-
boration.
11:00 18:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,2,11*

Dansk Cubansk Forening

On Socialism and Sustainable
Development
Environment, development, social
integration, employment, human rig-
hts.
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
G,1,35

Port Loko United Nations Stu- dents Association / P.L.U.N.A.

Overall Status of Women all over
the World
International Women's day Solidari-
ty
11:00 12:45
Cafe
English
B, Upstairs

Health Environmental Regional Organization

Retain full employment and environ-
mental dev. in the West Carpathians
Development
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,3,29*

Country Women Association of Nigeria

Rural Women's access to credit &
other resources
The way forward. Poverty eraricati-
on.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C,3,31*

Social Fund for Development

Social Fund's role in combatting
Poverty & unemployment: Case of
Egypt
Poverty & Unemployment in Egypt,
Social implications of Structural
Adjustment. SFD
Efforts and approaches.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C,2,09*

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
11:00 12:45
Workshop
Spanish
C,3,19*

Centro de Estudios Europeos

The impact of the U.S. blockage in
the factors of Social Development in
Cuba

11:00 12:45
Conference
Spanish
C,4,33

DK ROC Association

The ROC on Taiwan and the United
Nations
The ROC's involvement in the UN
and its possible contributions
11:00 12:45
Other
English
H,1,42

Støttekomiteen for Tibet

Tibetan Women's Association, Dha-
ramsala
Women and Development. Yeshi
Lhamo
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,2,14*

Vesterbro Ordblindebutik

Undervisning i stedet for at betale
senere

11:00 18:45
Conference
Danish
B,1,02*

Lourdes Youth and Community Services, Ltd.

Unspoken Truths
Cultural participation articulating
women's experiences across Bor-
ders.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*

World Hunger Year

Women and development in Tibet
Women and development. /Video
film.
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,2,13*

REAL Women of Canada

Women and Social Development
Women's rights, human rights, soci-
al integration
11:00 12:45
Conference
English
C,2,17*

Den Danske Komite for Kur- dernes Menneskerettigheder

Women in Kurdish Societies in the
Home States and in Exile
Women's problems with getting
access to social welfare & develop-
ment in Kurdish Societies.
Testimonies from Kurdish women.
11:00 16:45
Other
English, Danish
D,1,34

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Women's International League for
Peace & Freedom 80 years involve-
ment for peace
Women's rights and international
solidarity.
11:00 12:45
Workshop
English

NGO BULLETIN BOARD

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Press Connection.

Worldwide media are massively represented at the Summit and at Holmen. At the conference centre, (building C) the NGO Press Connection is situated.

The staff is a group of trained journalists, who are ready to help organisations to get in touch with media or to write press releases.

Interpreters.

Doesn't anyone have communication problems? At the First Floor Conference Centre (building C), a crew of voluntary interpreters are ready to help you carry out a more successful bilingual meeting. The service is free of charge, and it is open daily from 0845 to 2000.

Alternative Declaration

Several NGOs are so dissatisfied with the official summit's draft declaration and plan of action that they want to present an alternative NGO declaration. Last night, a number of large NGO groupings met to discuss a draft declaration, scheduled to be distributed at Holmen today for further comments before finally being adopted.

Music.

Today at 1800, the Scientology Choir will sing at Restaurant Upstairs in building B (Global Village).



C,3,23*

International NGO Task Group on Legal and Institutional Matters

Working group/Caucus on legal & institutional matters
Caucus on legal & institutional issues
11:00 12:45
Other

D,2,34A

Mellemfolkelig Samvirke, Danish Ass. for Int. Cooperation

2) Tough Remedy Silent Tragedy On SAPs and their impacts on Food Security and Women. Attending: Per PinstrupAndersen, IFPRI, Rachel Polestico, the Philippines, Dr. Vandana Shiva, India, Lena Kirjavanen, FAO, World Bank and moderators.
13:00 18:45
Conference
English
G,2,39

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Culture and Identity Ethnic Coexistence in Asia
Ethnicity and Social integration mechanisms for coexistence at the community level.
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
H,1,42

Den Kulørte Kirke

Den Kulørte Kirke Ecumenical Church Forum / World Council of Churches
8 th March: 13:00: International Gospel. 14:0018:00: Ecumenical networking / World Council of Churches. Exchange of expressions from the Social Summit between the Church related NGOs and official church delegates. Working out strategies for the work after the Copenhagen Summit.
19:0020:45: No reconciliation without economic reconciliation. Dr. Duchrow from Germany on the economical interdependence between North and South.
11 th March: 9:0020:45: During the day there will be debates, theater, music, creative workshops etc...
12 th March: 9:00 , 15:17:00: Ecumenical Service, 18:0020:45: Rounding up the Summit.
Where do we go from now ?

13:00 20:45
Other
English, Danish
C,4,33

EpoG Entwicklungspolitische Gesellschaft e.V.

Experience in EastWest Development Policy Crises of Development Policy

13:00 14:45
Workshop
English, French
C,2,10*

Baluchistan National Movement

Human rights in Baluchistan
A national problem
13:00 16:45

Conference
English
C,3,30*

Instituto de Acao Cultural Terra Femina

Social Integration for and by Women
Feminisation of Poverty/Social Exclusion/Creative solutions for participation.
13:00 14:45
Other
English, French
H,1,41*

Institute for Planetary Synthesis Italy

Sociocultural projects for children as a strategic step in Social Development
Concrete projects on Human wawes in MassMedia as a global intervention program.
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,09*

Københavns Kvindedagshøjskole

Sofar: Inner Goddesses

for Social Development.
13:00 14:45
Other
English
C,2,18*

The World Bank Group

The World Bank and participation
13:00 14:45
Other
English
C,3,31*

EuroStep European Solidarity Towards Equal Participat.of People

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

The Egyptian Delegation

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

13:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,2,07*

Kvindernes Ulandsudvalg

Trafficking in Women
13:00 16:45
Conference
English
C,3,21*

Socialdemokratiet WOMAN i de nordiske lande

WOMAN and Power in the Nordic Countries
13:00 14:45
Conference
English
G,1,35

Women's Human Right Group

Women and singing
13:00 16:45
Music
English
B, Upstairs

Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK
Women and social development
Main tasks of the national council of women and their international coherence
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
C,2,17*

Aqui Nosotras Red Europea Latinoamericana de Mujeres

Women, migration and culture
13:00 16:45
Video film
English, Spanish
C,3,20*

Økologiske Igangsættere

Youth and ecology
Youth and unemployment
13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
C,3,26*

Tibetan Youth Congress

Youth and social development in Tibet
Youth and social development. W/Video film.
13:00 14:45
Conference
English
H,1,40*

Associacao de Protecao do Meio Ambiente

Acerola in School and Acerola in the garden
Acerola: Food supplies for students and poor people in tropical and subtropical countries
Report of an experience.
15:00 16:45
Conference
Spanish
H,1,40*

Institute for Alternative Development Research.

Alternative, Indigenous, Relevant and Sustainable Social Development Assessments and Perspectives: Development, Poverty, Environment, Models.
15:00 18:45
Workshop

English
C,3,23*

Enhedslisten Den rødgrønne fælles-liste

Debt, the World Bank and IMF Will be provided
15:00 16:45
Conference
English
C,2,14*

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,3,24*

Lifeseeing in Denmark

Lifeseeing in Denmark
Interaction. Adult education. Show.
15:00 16:45
Music
English
C,2,13*

Int. NGO Network on Global Govern and Democartization of Int. Relat

Reform of the Security Council
Security Council and peoples security, reform and restructuring of the Security and Economic Security. Relation SCEcosoc. Is there need for an Economic Security Council.
15:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,2,17*

The Religious Consultation on Population, Reprod.Health/Ethics.

Religious Ethics and Social Development

15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
H,1,41*

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*

Center of Concern

Structures of Exclusion and feature testimonies from the South
Development, poverty, human rights, women, employment, social integration.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,3,31*

Institute for Planetary Synthesis

The 10 seedgroups as a global strategy for social integration
Development of individual talents in the service of society.
15:00 18:45
Workshop
English



These silver badges have been designed especially for the NGO Forum. The badges are exhibited at the NGO Information in the First Floor Conference Centre. To buy them, you will have to go to "Santa Maria - Costume Jewellery" in Torvegade 28, close to Holmen.
The price is Dkr. 250,-
Photo: Thomas Villars

Personal development through visual work, cultural participation / access to art, articulating women experiences, visually across borders.(Video Film).

13:00 14:45
Workshop
English, Danish
C,3,23*

World Scientific Spiritual Party.

Spiritual Dimension: Global Youth Power
Global peace, etc...
13:00 14:45
Conference

C,3,19*

The Values Caucus

The Values Caucus
Ethical, Moral and Spiritual Values

Hungarian Folk High School Society

To be provided

13:00 14:45
Workshop
English
C,3,29*

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.



An NGO Forum supplement

C,3,22*

Ecological Movement of Macedonia FOE

The environment and cooperation in the Balkans
How the environment could increase NGO cooperation in this region.
15:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,3,26*

Sudanese Women's Union Political Refugee.

The shortest way to women's equality with reference to Sudanese women
Causes of women's discrimination and shortest way to equality.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
H,1,42

Ecologically Sustainable Development Foundation ECOFUND

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

Enhedslisten Den rødgrønne fælles-liste

Unemployment, social conditions and women in the EU
Will be provided
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English
C,2,10*

Arab Women Forum

Women in the light of the "New World Order"
15:00 18:45
Workshop
English
G,1,35

Alliance des Femmes pour la Democratie

Women, development and democracy
Exclusion, procreation, access to political decision.
15:00 16:45
Conference
French
C,3,19*

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

Breaches of the Right to Food in Mexico
Social Summit in Practice.
17:00 18:45
Conference
English, Spanish
C,2,13*

The Swedish Baha'i Community

Clashes of culture
The role of women; the concept of family; the family structure in agricultural and industrial society.
17:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,30*

IBIS

COCA and female producers

17:00 18:45

Conference
Danish, Spanish
C,3,29*

Development Education Centre

Empowering grassroots women to create local financial institutions
17:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,2,14*

Peter Hesse Foundation

Facilitators in partnership with limited funds
A method for truly demand driven aid to alleviate poverty
17:00 18:45
Conference
English
C,3,27*

Socio Economic Awareness Research Program.

Focus on Women in Rural Bangladesh
Women Emancipation, Rights, Violation of their Rights
17:00 18:45
Other
English
C,3,31*

The International Upper Second School

How an international point of view improves school life and education
Ex. A Danish boarding school.
Advantages from running a school with students of various nationalities.
17:00 20:45
Conference
English, Danish
C,3,24*

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*

International Population & Family Association

research conference on women
17:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,3,20*

MFR's Venner i Danmark

Små danske NGO'ers rolle i udviklingspolitiken
Hvorledes kan små danske NGO'er bedst støtte udviklingsbestrebelse i Ulande og hvorledes kan vi trænge igennem den danske offentlighed og det danske bistands-system.
17:00 18:45
Workshop
Danish
C,2,12*

World Federalist Resources

The Creation of a World Federation World Federalism.
17:00 18:45
Workshop
English
C,2,15*

Dansk Kvindesamfund

The new reproduction technologies and the ethical problems involved

17:00 20:45

Other
English, Danish
C,2,07*

Tibet Women's Association, DK
Women and Social Development
How women can be engaged in and participate in Social Development in Tibet.
17:00 20:45
Conference
English
C,3,21*

Jakob Holt

American Pictures STARTS
KL.19.00 (7PM) ENDS KL. 23.00 (11 PM)
19:00 20:45
Other
English
G,1,35

Arctic Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples at the NGO Forum '95
19:00 20:45
Theatre

F, Steelworks

Indvandrekvindeforeningen Soldue
Kivnde Kultur Fest
19:00 20:45
Dance

D,2,34A

Netherlands Organisation for Development Cooperation

NGO's as Actors of Change
NGO's experience in Social Development.
19:00 20:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,2,14*

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

Actors of Change

NGO's experience in Social Development.
19:00 20:45
Workshop
English, Spanish
C,2,14*

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*

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English, Danish
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Women festival STARTS KL 21.00 (9 PM) ENDS KL 24.00 (12 PM)
Kronborg
19:00 20:45
Other
D,1,34

The Danish Host Committee for NGO Forum '95
Invites to a briefing and discussion on "What happens at the official summit at the Bella Center". Speakers invited by the Host Committee
9:00-10:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*

The Danish Host Committee for NGO Forum '95
Keynote speakers daily briefing
11:00 12:45
Conference
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*

Parliamentarians for Global Action
Bridging the Gender Gap; Open Dialogue between the Parliamentarian & Society
Building momentum & solidarity twds: Parliamentarianism, commitment for empowerment of women.
15:00 16:45
Workshop
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*

Women's Environment & Development Organization
180 DAY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH AND RALLY
NGO Delegate Dialogue
Question answer session about the status of negotiations in the government process.
17:00 18:45
Other
English, Danish, Spanish, French
B,1,05*

Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, National Council of Women In DK
Women festival
21:00 24:00
Other
B,1,05*

NGO Forum Press Conferences at the NGO Forum Press Centre

DAILY PROGRAMME

Wednesday March 8th

11:00 "Empowering Disadvantaged Consumers"
Consumers International
Speakers include
Mr. Jose Vargas, regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mr. Tiale Paul Masimong, North West Consumer Council of South Africa

13:00 "Information technology and the NorthSouth dialogue."
Nordnet/ APC Association for Progressive Communications

14:30 "African Women speak out on Poverty"
NARWA Network of African Rural Women Association

Other Press Conferences for March 5th will be announced as they are booked

To book a Press Conference phone 32668255 or come to the Press Conference Office at the Press Centre

NGO Forum Press Conferences at the NGO Forum Press Centre

DAILY PROGRAMME

Wednesday March 8th (continued)

15:30 Social Democratic Party of Denmark
"Women and Power in the North"
Speakers include:
Minister of Commerce of Norway Grete Knudsen
Minister of Agriculture of Sweden
Margareta Winberg
Finnish member of parliament SaraMaria Paakinen
Danish member of parliament Helle Degn

17:00 Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team
"AMURT's opinion on Social Development"
Speakers include
Dada Ramananda Global Director

Other Press Conferences for March 5th will be announced as they are booked

To book a Press Conference phone 32668255 or come to the Press Conference Office at the Press Centre



An NGO Forum supplement

Market policies oppress women

By Linda Fridh

Women. Women have become the main losers in the global economy. Therefore, women need to play a larger role in the trade unions. For women in India, the first step is to call for recognition of the labour force in the informal sector.

The informal or unorganized sector in India covers more than 93% of the labour force. Half of this work is done by women. The informal work is made up of professions such as spinners, weavers, teachers, vendors, constructors and farmers. Every year the unorganized area is becoming bigger, still it is completely ignored and left out of the major policies.

This is the major concern of Ela Bhatt, general secretary of SEWA, the organization for women from the informal sector in India, speaking at the women's conference at Holmen on Tuesday. "We have gone to the unions and

to the government several times, but without any result. There is no basis for discussion as long as the great majority of our workers are not even recognized."

Her main argument is that there should not be made any division at all between the two groups, no worker should be considered marginal. "The unorganized sector has to take joint action in regard to unions and cooperatives. We are all economically active and we all contribute to our country", claims Ms Bhatt.

Jobs for everyone

Full employment and job security is the second concern of Ela Bhatt. "We must convince our planners and economists that full employment is relevant to the family and that unemployment can not be solved by market forces." This must be seen in the context of neoliberalism, one of the themes at the NGO Forum.

Capitalism is basically the old word for neoliberalism, which



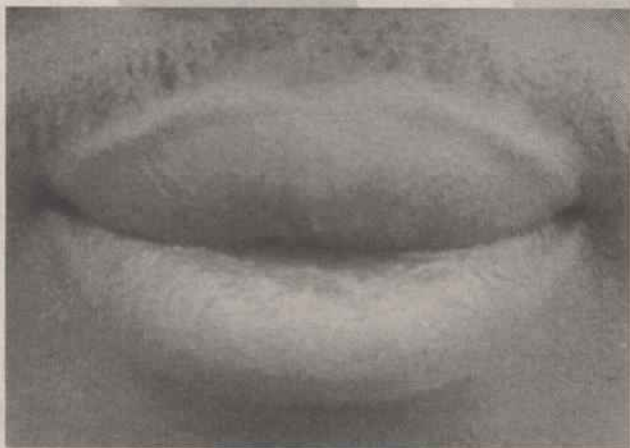
acquired dominance on the international scene after the collapse of the socialist system. It advocates an extreme concept of free enterprise, where the world is seen as one of buyers and sellers, and tends to create social instability and disintegration.

Neoliberal policies have brought about economic crisis especially for the South. To cope with these crises, economies have adapted various structural adjustment programs. So far, the poor have suffered the most from the negative effects of neoliberalism. And women have suffered more, because they are generally poorer than men.

Ms Ela Bhatt, general secretary of SEWA, speaking at the NGO Forum Tuesday.

Photo: Annika Martins

Ubskrrrzsk? OK!



By Linda Fridh

Languages.

Chinese, Swahili and Russian are only three of the more than 15 languages interpreted at the NGO Forum. Over 130 voluntary interpreters, most of them students at the Business School of Copenhagen, are here to interpret the smaller workshops and meetings at Holmen. Although their service is free of charge, they have had little to do during the first days.

"A lot of people have just arrived and they haven't discovered us yet. Maybe some people are also trying to understand by themselves", says Jette Malte Mortensen, one of the student interpreters with French as her special language. According to her, the French-English combination is the most sought after,



especially among African people. There is also a big demand for interpretation in Spanish by people from Latin America.

"It's great! We are in our last year and we have our final exams soon, so it is a perfect opportunity for us to practice. In school, we are too many students in one class and don't have the same chance to try out our skills," concludes Jette Malte Mortensen. The Interpretation Center is situated in building C and is open daily 0845-2000. All interpretations are free of charge.

The distance between the mouth and the ear can be longer than you think.

Photo: IKON/Henrik Christensen

UN Documents Wanted

By Michael Bilde

Information. Some NGOs are not fully satisfied with the working conditions at Holmen. Especially the limited access to UN documents such as the Social Summit's draft declaration is being criticized. "It's really a problem that those documents are not available out here," says James Mackie from NGDO, a network of more than 800 European NGOs.

UN documents are available via computers in the APC centre, but that is not sufficient, argue the NGOs.

"It's not good enough just to have them on a screen," says World Development Movement's Roger Briottet, who is otherwise satisfied with the facilities at Holmen.

Dr. S. Farad, an activist from Zimbabwe, would also like to see more big TV screens broadcasting live from the official summit.

"At Bella Center, there are screens every two meters. Why can't they have more of them here?" he asks.

Gitte Just Mikkelsen, NGO Forum executive manager: "We will definitely do something about the problem with documents. This is something that just has to work." She promises that today, relevant UN documents will be available opposite the kiosk in building C. As for the TV screens, Just Mikkelsen does not think it will be possible to set up more of them.

Multimedia event visits Holmen

American Pictures. Racism and poverty in a 3000 picture show

By Peter te Lintel Hekkert

He went to Canada to work on a farm in the early seventies, but ended up hitch hiking through the United States for five years, documenting the underclass of society. Nowadays, Danish photographer Jacob Holdt (47) is still a permanent visitor of the land of hopes and dreams. Universities from all around the country invite him to present his impressions in a multimedia spectacle of more than 3.000 pictures.

For the last twenty years, Holdt has lived with more than 400 American families at the bottom and the top of the social ladder. The results are presented in a controversial show highlighting the extremes of US city and rural life. The event, called American Pictures, has repeatedly been shown at the biggest colleges in North America. Many have adopted it in their orientation programs for freshmen. Furthermore, it has been published as a book and translated into seven languages and it is being used for anti-racism campaigns in several countries.

Although the show was also a tremendous success in Europe, it has not been exhibited

there for almost 10 years. "I got tired of the increasing racism here", Holdt explains. But because of the rise in racial intolerance in Europe, the photographer went back to make an updated version of American Pictures.

"I can feel by people's reactions that there is more of a need for the show in Europe today. Ten years ago, words like ghetto, disintegration and segregation were foreign to European countries. Now, they are far more widespread", he argues. "The issue of dealing with the disenfranchised is very much what the Social Summit is about."

The artist uses the concept of European Welfare States in his presentations. "Take a look at Denmark or the Netherlands: they are very successful in combatting poverty. In these countries, about 5 percent of the children are born into poverty. In the US, there are 20 percent. I think that the Americans could learn a lot from that."

American pictures at the NGO Forum: tonight 1900, meeting building G, located near Steelworks. It is in English.



An NGO Forum supplement

Editor-in-Chief: Bo Simonsen
 Editor: Moses Lassen
 Sub-editors: Luci Smith & Ida Ebbesen
 Tel. 3266 8256
 Reporters:
 Michael Bilde
 Bjarne Noerum Andersen
 Linda Fridh
 Koen Greven
 Jens Joergensen
 Peter te Lintel Hekker

NGO OF THE DAY

Zambia Alliance of Women

The great number of women represented at the NGO Forum, is again a sign of women's efficiency coming together in networks and associations. Maybe it could also be seen as a measure of how persistent the discrimination of women in the world is.

In Zambia, the change towards equality between men and women has only just begun. "According to our cultural traditions and norms, a woman belongs to her husband. A woman is a minor until the day she dies", says Prisca M. Molotsi, who is a representative of the Zambia Alliance of Women.

For Zambian women there is still not any equality, although the Zambian government has signed and ratified the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. "Now we can at least go to court and refer to the convention. Discrimination has become illegal. But as long as people don't know about the law, their rights will always be violated," explains Ms. Molotsi.

African lobbying

The situation has improved even though it takes time: "We are really in the beginning. It is still the men's world in Zambia and there is no comparison with the Scandinavian countries who are years ahead of us." Ms. Molotsi confirms that the women's movement is very strong in her country. There are more than ten different organizations lobbying, trying to raise funds and help women to enter the parliament.

As many developing countries, Zambia is very much indebted to the IMF and the World Bank. Structural adjustment programmes have been prescribed and introduced which have implied high interest, devaluation and removal of subsidies. This has especially hit the social infrastructure such as healthcare and education.

"What we expect from the social summit is that not only the North, but also our own governments, will listen to us, so that one day also our women will be included in politics and decisionmaking."

LF



Lifestyle. In Denmark for the first time? Staying at a fancy hotel? Then you might want to know something about the typical Danish way of living. At the Global Village, there is now an opportunity to look into the everyday life of a young Danish couple. An average home has been built up

behind glass and is on display there. Various activities, such as a birthday party, a family visit and a soccer evening, will be held at the Danish home during the week. Building B, Restaurant Upstairs. Photo: Thomas Villars

LF

Fierce criticism of Denmark's National Report

By: Linda Fridh

Disagreement. Denmark is more than just the intriguing blend of fairytale ambience and modern social welfare philosophy. The Danish Report to the Social Summit draws a glossy and superficial picture of Denmark today. That is the common opinion of the Danish NGOs, who have put forward their comments in a special document called "Behind the scenes". The description of the education, training and employment situation is incomplete, according to the three trade unions (AC, FTF, LO) in Denmark. The unions consider that the report should have stressed that "there is an insufficient number of training placements" and that "the contribution of the private sector in ensuring an opportunity of work and training for all is inadequate."

Lack of public discussion Moreover, the NGOs claim that the report generally tends to underestimate the role of Non Governmental Organizations in Danish society. The National Report is compiled by several civil servants from the Danish government. The NGOs find it regrettable

because an organized labour market and a well developed association culture, is the cornerstone of the country's democratic tradition and welfare society.

For a wide audience

Ole Jørgensen, head of the International Division of the Ministry of Social Affairs, thinks the criticism is unreasonable. "The aim is to give an impression of how the Danish welfare system works. It is a paper that other countries can use for information and inspiration to improve their own social policies. I think it is a good and objective report."

Many critical voices

The Danish United Nations Association says the report indeed gives a good overview of the Danish social system. It lacks, however, "critical analysis of the economic and social problems still prevalent in Danish society, the fundamental principles of our welfare system and our engagement in international development."

The report is available in a limited supply at the Information Centre on the First Floor of building C.

Native Americans want leader out of jail

By Koen Greven

Human rights.

Leonard Peltier, leader of the American Indian Movement, has spent the last twenty years in an American prison for killing two FBI agents. He was sentenced to serve two consecutive life sentences. The American Indian Movement believes that Peltier was framed on false murder charges. Doris Leader Charge and Rita Means, both Lakota Indians from South Dakota, came to the NGO Forum to fight for the freedom of their leader.

An indigenous man and two FBI agents were killed on June 26, 1975 in a shootout between federal agents and Indian activists in a reservation in South Dakota. Peltier was accused of both murders. "The tribunal did not have any proof of or evidence against Peltier. He is in prison illegally, we want to have a



Rita Means and Doris Leader Charge fight for the rights of Leonard Peltier. Photo: Darius Dombek

new trial for him. Peltier is not the only innocent Indian who is imprisoned, the world should know how the United States treat us", says Rita Means.

Huge campaigns and actions to get Peltier out of jail did not help anything. The American Indian Movement collected 25 million signatures, among them, those of Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa, but the United States Government refuses to reopen the case. Doris Leader Charge, who played the Indian first lady in Kevin Costner's movie, Dan

ces with Wolves, wants to meet America's first lady Hillary Clinton in Copenhagen. "A President's clemency is the only solution for Peltier's situation", says Doris Leader Charge. "Mandela was released in South Africa, it is about time that America releases our leader", is the message from the Indian activists to the White House.

China: Blurred picture

Women report the story, who controls the news?

by Xiong Lei

Women account for more than one-third of media workers in China, but a dismally small proportion of female journalists hold positions at the decision-making level, IPS reports from Beijing.

The poor representation of women in top media posts is one of the concerns that an ongoing survey by the All-China Journalists' Association and the Journalism Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences hopes to explain.

The results of the study, to be completed in June, will be presented at a meeting of international non-governmental groups in Beijing prior to the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in September.

"This is the first poll of its kind ever conducted in China," says Prof Chen Chongshan of the Journalism Institute, who is in charge of the project.

Questionnaires have been sent out to 3,534 female and 1,500 male journalists from 426 news organisations in 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country.

Chen says they followed the standards and methods used by the State Statistical Bureau in choosing the respondents for the survey to ensure that they would be representative of China's print and electronic media.

The Chinese mass media

employ some 550,000 people, 140,000 of whom do reporting and editorial work.

According to Chen, 37 percent of journalists in China are female, but women comprise only 4.7 percent of publishers and editors-in-chief working for the 2,573 newspaper offices throughout the country.

Many of the 45 items in the questionnaire seek to determine whether news organisations in the country provide equal opportunities for women in areas like promotion, work assignments, advanced study and housing.

Employment

Previous surveys have shown an imbalance in China's general workforce. A study by the All China Women's Federation found that the overall employment figure among women is lower than that among men, and women's average monthly income amounts to only 81.7 percent of men's.

Despite these inequalities, the current female employment rate is 14.7 percent higher than that during their mothers' time, says Tao Chunfang, a professor at the Women's Institute.

The gender imbalance is evident even in Chinese homes. While most women make many of the decisions about household concerns, their husbands are still the ones who have the final say in important matters.

by Paul Chintowa

If you could see behind the 'hijab' (muslim veil) worn by Haji Makame, you might detect a wide smile as she takes on the men in business in this male-dominated, Islamic community.

Makame is running her own store - after her husband allowed her to benefit from a credit scheme to start an income generating venture, IPS reports from Pemba, Tanzania.

"This is the first time rural women in Pemba have been involved in commercial activities," she observed "We have a saying these days that one should only cooperate with other people to build a mosque, or to construct a rural road. In business, one should be on one's own."

A peasant woman from another village in the island of Pemba boasted "I have managed to increase crop production four-fold!"

Mwajuma Faki is a member of a 10-member women cooperative, which is making a profit from the sale of surplus maize, sorghum and cassava from their four-hectare farm.

Makame and Faki are two of an increasing number of women who have managed to remove the shackles imposed by both tradition, and religion, thanks to projects funded by UN organisations and the Tanzanian government.

Women make more than 51 percent of Tanzania's population of 29 million people.

Low-income

The UN Development Programme (UNDP), through the U.N. Fund for Women Activities (UNIFEM), started the credit scheme aimed at stimulating productive activities of low-income women to improve their economic status.

Haji Makame, for instance, belonged to a small cooperative which received a 440-dollar loan to opera-

te a retail shop in 1993. But, after the credit was repaid, she bought out the other members and, with a further 400-dollar loan, she opened her own store in January.

"I am progressing well. I now make my own business plans and I have more money to provide for my family," she said.

Natividad Torralba, an UNDP volunteer, says once the initial credit is repaid members of other cooperatives have also gone their individual ways in business.

The UNDP project provides women groups business advice, training in book-keeping and regular follow-ups by field staff. The micro-enterprises include trade in foodstuffs and textiles, retail shops, mattress making, cement block making, poultry, bakery, firewood selling and transport services.

"Some of the women entrepreneurs are doing very well... We continue to help with sound business advice," says Torralba.

Everywhere in the world

Different plight for different climes

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

But women's suffering is universal

by IPS Correspondents

The status and standing of women vary dramatically around the world, according to a new report by the Washington-based demographic research group, Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

How women are doing is likely to get more attention than usual during this year's International Women's Day, which falls midway between last year's International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and September's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

"The status of women is so often measured in terms of comparisons to men," noted Dr. Nancy Yinger, editor of the new PRB study. "We often forget that there are great inequalities among women themselves, based on wealth and place of birth."

IPS reports from Washington that in the developing world, nearly two-thirds of all illiterates 15 years and older are women. But where those women are found varies greatly.

The women's illiteracy rate in Latin America and the Caribbean is 17 percent, compared to 69 percent in West Africa, according to the new data.

A woman from Guyana or Uruguay, where literacy rates of women run at about 96 percent) is nearly nine times more apt to read and write than her counterpart in the South-Central Asian nations of Afghanistan and Nepal (11 percent literacy for women).

And only five percent of

Niger's women are literate, compared to 46 percent in the nearby West African of Ghana and universal literacy in most developed countries.

Overall, literacy rates in the developing world (excluding China) have risen significantly from 1970 to 1990 - from 53 percent to 71 percent for men and from 33 percent to 52 percent for women, according to the report.

In fact, "with few exceptions, where men's literacy rate is high, the gap between men and women is small," according to the survey.

The study, a datasheet called 'The World's Women', also shows dramatic differences in maternal mortality rates around the world.

But the range within this ratio is "enormous" - from 2,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 births in Mali, to only two in Ireland.

Even within a geographic region, rates can differ greatly. In South-Central Asia, Bhutan shows 1,300 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, while in Sri Lanka the comparable figure is only 80.

Lack of medical care explains the higher maternal death rates.

The percentage of developing country births (excluding China) attended by medical personnel is 46 percent com-

pared to 99 percent in developed countries.

On employment, the survey finds that women make up about one-third of the global labour force in nonagricultural jobs. The proportion, however, is higher at 44 percent in developed countries than in poor nations, where the rate is only 29 percent.

Women also generally work for less. In Japan, the ratio of

women's wages to men's in nonagricultural employment, for example, is half that of Australia - an almost unique case of wage equality.

Strikingly, women are more comparably paid in nonagricultural jobs in Kenya than their counterparts in Germany.

Women on average enjoy a life expectancy at birth significantly greater than men.

In the developed world, women can expect to live to 78, compared to 71 years for men.

In poor countries besides China, life expectancy is 62 years for women, and 59 for men.

Turks to vote on equal rights

Women's groups are doubtful that Turkey's male-dominated parliament will pass new laws improving the social status of women in a society which continues to treat them as "second class citizens".

"It is hard to believe that the male dominated parliament will abandon their hegemony at home," prominent feminist Beril Eyuboglu told IPS in Istanbul.

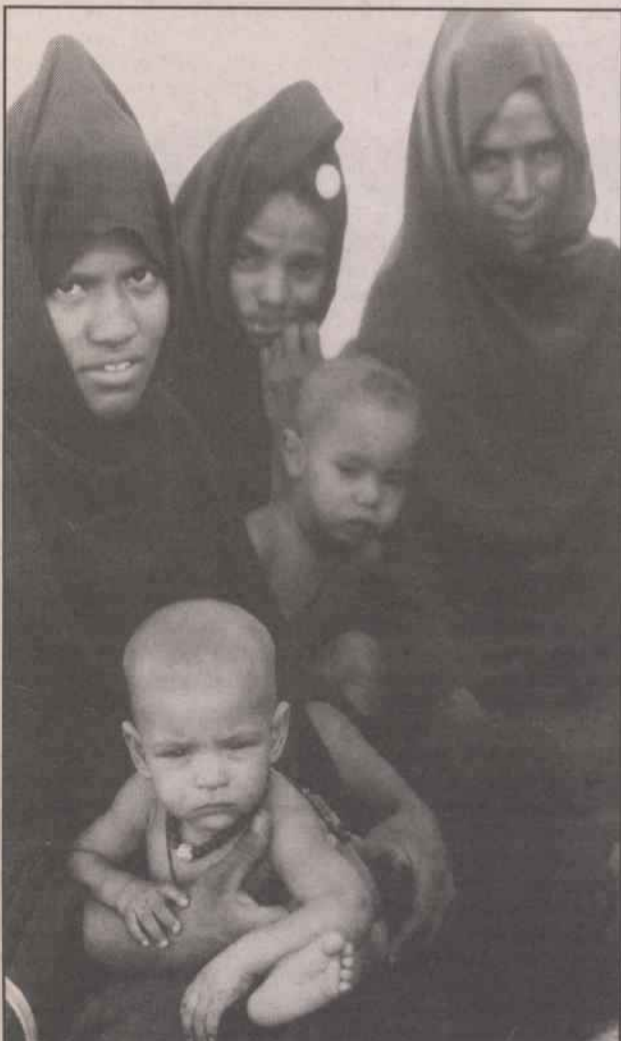
Although Turkey's ruling coalition is headed by woman prime minister, Tansu Ciller, she is one of only seven female deputies in the 450-member Turkish parliament.

Eyuboglu argues that in Turkey, women continue to be

treated as "second class citizens", adding: "It is not sufficient to have a woman prime minister," since in the final analysis it was still the parliament which determined the country's laws.

The bill was put forward by Onay Alpagu, Minister of State responsible for women's affairs, who said that the present legislation needs to be updated in keeping with the responsibilities taken on by women, particularly in the family setting.

Of the 30 million women in the European country, who represent a little more than half of its predominantly Muslim population, 25 million are housewives.



Women from Mali. Picture: UN.

Non-governmental South Asians

by Mahesh Uniyal

South Asian people's groups, speaking on behalf of more than half the world's estimated 1.2 billion poor, want the declaration and action plan to come out of the World Summit for Social Development to rely less on market mechanisms.

"We recommend that the WSSD takes steps at Copenhagen to temper the pro-market language that is contained in the two summit documents, and add measures to increase the purchasing power of the poor and focus on rural markets," says a lobbying paper finalised Tuesday by the South Asian Caucus.

The caucus was set up during the second round of the preparatory talks for the U.N. meet and comprises NGOs from the seven South Asian nations.

The recommendations on lobbying points for the summit says that while the draft programme of action recognises that unchecked consumption, specially in the rich nations is worsening environmental decay and increasing poverty, it actually encourages such consumption by giving primacy to market forces as development tools.

On the crucial question of debt cancellation, South Asi-

an ngos are taking a different position from those in other parts of the developing world, Amitav Mukherjee of Action Aid, India who heads the caucus, told Terra Viva.

"We don't want debt forgiveness, but only want back everything which the rich countries have taken away from us," says Mukherjee, who spoke on the plenary session on the opening day of the summit.

In Copenhagen, South Asian NGOs are demanding an audit to determine "who owes what to whom". Delegates attending the caucus said that the South Asian region bore the brunt of colonial exploitation over the past century. This is continuing in the form of providing cheap labour and raw materials to the industrialised world.

Mukherjee points out that Britain needed at least a 23 percent annual domestic savings rate to sustain its 19th century industrial revolution, but managed less than a sixth of this because of resources provided by the colonies.

South Asian ngos are worried that governments will shirk commitments made at the summit and want the Copenhagen meet to propose national social development commissions with constitutional status to ensure that this does not happen.

First crisis of the 21st century

by Anacleto Rwegayura and Maricel Sequeira

There used to be a time when America caught a cold the rest of the world sneezed. In today's global economic order, a sniffle in Mexico also means a world-wide run on kleenex.

IMF Managing Director, Michel Camdessus, yesterday said that Mexico's financial crash was the "first crisis of the 21st century." Local aftershocks are now felt worldwide.

He stressed that there were three main lessons to be learnt from the Mexican crisis, including the need for every country to "consolidate its financial stability and to correct macroeconomic imbalances, which can make any country prey to unexpected shifts in market sentiment and contagion effects."

Another is the need to "avoid yielding to the temptation, which can be brought on by panic, to return to controls and protectionist measures that would precipitate deeper recessionary effects."

And financial cooperation instruments should be strengthened "to ensure that they are commensurate with the new dimension of our challenges."

For the future, globalised universe, the IMF chief suggested the establishment of an early warning system to spot looming disasters and avoid panicky reactions which could be "suicidal".

National economies have become more vulnerable to international capital flows, prompting the need for international policy coordination and multilateral surveillance, he said.

But, despite a 50 billion dollar rescue package led by the U.S. and the IMF riding to the rescue, Mexico's market remains in the doldrums.

Camdessus acknowledged that international integration "brings increased dangers, to the point that there is widespread fear in public opinion that globalisation could be synonymous with increased poverty and exclusion."

He stressed that along with moves towards market integration had to be initiatives on poverty alleviation in individual countries.

In the Final Analysis For-profit development



by Yvette Collymore

Big business leaders from Japan, Europe, and the U.S. are waving the Japanese ideal of 'Kyosei' at the poverty talks. The question now for the Social Summit is to what extent will giant corporations use self-regulation to humanise their bottom line.

The CEO of Canon argues that Kyosei — living and working together for the common good — would encourage companies to act responsibly on issues of democracy, human rights, and justice — all areas which transnationals now abuse with impunity.

Business leaders who have assembled here would like to be accepted as an enlightened segment of the community willing to put some of their profits back into the community. They are proclaiming a set of principles, based on the idea of Kyosei, that aim to set a world standard against which business behaviour could be measured.

To these businesses, self-regulation is in any case more palatable than other proposals that would force them to answer to masters outside of their club. A code of conduct devised, say, by the 185-member U.N. will not find favour among the wealthy corporations.

The CEO of Canon in Tokyo, Ryuzaburo Kaku, put a socially responsible twist on things. He told Terra Viva it makes no sense to leave all the work to the governments and the United Nations.

As Stephen Braswell of Prudential in the U.S. sees it, why waste a lot of time arguing over one universal code — who is following it and who is not. "It is more important to get the show on the road" he said, referring to the set of principles they have devised.

Many fear a problem: businesses eager to "get the show on the road" may be expertly giving themselves a facial make-over conscious of the talk here on the need to re-shape the global market system, set standards for transnational corporations, and levy fees for environmental destruction.

The Canon official and others are members of the Caux Round Table, founded in 1986 in Caux sur Montreux, Switzerland. They argue that they are concerned with problems engendered by trade imbalances, the gaps between rich and poor within and between nations, and the steady destruction of natural resources. They call their new guidelines 'Principles for Business'.

Kaku of Canon divides the world of business into categories that include profit-hungry national enterprises, mom and pop concerns, businesses in which members of the community own shares, and transnational corporations. He argues that it is these global companies that should take responsibility for addressing issues of poverty and the environment.

With the increasing move towards the integration of markets, transnational corporations are in any case waking up to the fact that their profits will only increase if people can buy their products. It therefore makes good business sense to invest in market improvements worldwide.

The transnational corporations are also speaking a language that finds favour in the U.N. and may even silence moderate critics.

The key question now for the U.N. and other development watchers is just how vigilant transnational corporations will be in policing themselves and in issuing sanctions against the elite members of their club.

When asked how much money goes towards development, the Canon CEO hedges, then says 20 percent of total revenue. He skips over further details but quickly says he will not be satisfied until it reaches 50 percent.

And what about the money for Beijing?

For Noeleen Heyzer, the director of the U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the hush around the estimated cost of financing the Beijing platform for action is bad news.

"Actually, there has not been much talk about it," Heyzer said, and suggested that without resources to back its recommendations, the conference ran the danger of producing paper commitments.

"We are so used to a mindset that once we have put issues on paper the action stops," she said, "But this is the first stage of the whole process and the work has to go on."

According to Heyzer, one concrete way of making sure that business gets done after the Fourth World Conference on Women is to ensure a bigger, richer UNIFEM — the only U.N. fund that puts money directly into the hands of women and women's groups.

But she said that the Fund, with an annual budget now of only 11 million dollars, needs to grow at least 10 times — to some 100 million dollars — before it can have a real impact.

UNIFEM, mandated to be the voice and the conscience



of the women's movement within the U.N. system, is tiny compared to its sister agencies the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the U.N. Population Fund.

Heyzer said a bigger UNIFEM would allow it to expand its field strength and implement the new 'Women's Development Agenda' which is reflected, in part, in the Beijing action platform.

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.

