



# Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

Number 3

December 1994

The World  
Summit for  
Social  
Development

Bella Center,  
Copenhagen,  
Denmark

6-12 March  
1995



**Note:** Challenges for NGOs is issued at irregular intervals, following the Social Summit PrepComs, in order to keep NGOs posted on matters of interest.

## PREPCOM II FROM THE NGO PERSPECTIVE

The second session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II) for the World Summit for Social Development met from 22 August to 2 September 1994 in New York. A total of 300 NGOs (800 individuals), along with government delegates from over 180 countries, participated in this meeting, discussing a draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action for adoption at the Summit. NGO perspectives on the Social Summit were presented in 60 separate interventions.

**"The Social Summit is the first meeting of heads of State ever convened by the United Nations on social development."**

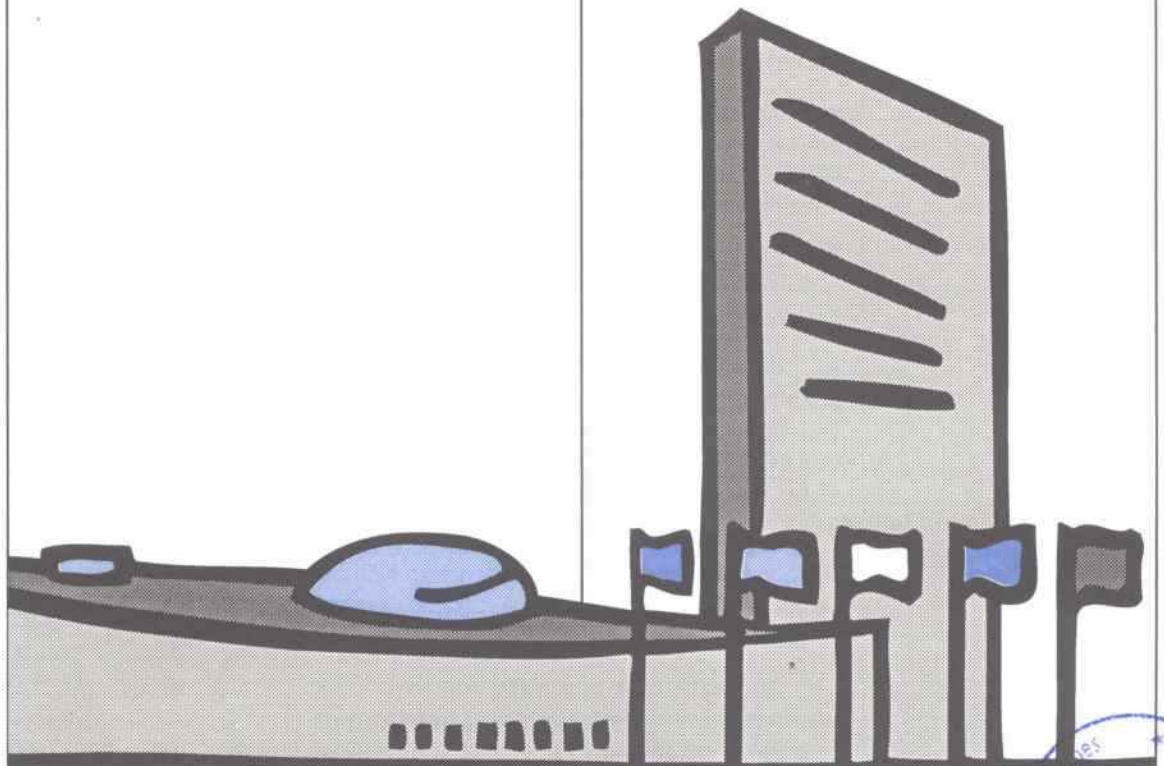
— Juan Somavia, Chairperson  
Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit and  
Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations

## DRAFT DECLARATION

Emerging out of extensive consultations, a progress report (A/CONF.166/PC/L.18) issued by the Chairperson near the end of the session suggested that a Draft Declaration, which sets out common values and goals that place people at the centre of development, could commit Governments to a number of actions (see below).

## DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

During the second PrepCom, progress was also made towards agreement on a draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.166/PC/CRP.3). Areas for further negotiation include: the right to migrate; debt reduction; the social impact of structural adjustment programmes; the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance; mechanisms to monitor social development; and the so-called "20/20 initiative," under which Governments of developing countries and donor countries would dedicate 20 per cent of their national budgets and 20 per cent of official development assistance to social spending.



Fundação Cuidar o Futuro



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### INTERSESSIONAL MEETING (24-28 OCTOBER)

Informal consultations were held from 24 to 28 October 1994 in New York. According to Ambassador Somavia, these talks provided guidelines for drawing up new, streamlined drafts of the Declaration by Ambassador Somavia and of the Programme of Action by the WSSD Secretariat.

In its current form, the Draft Declaration contains nine key "commitments", as outlined below:

- to create an enabling economic, social, political and legal environment conducive to social development at all levels;
- to eradicate poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as a moral, political and economic imperative of humankind;
- to enable all people to earn secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment, and to maintain the goal of full employment;
- to promote social integration and participation of all people by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just;
- to achieve full equity and equality between women and men and to recognize and enhance the participation of women in social progress and development;
- to promote the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries;
- to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote social development goals, including the eradication of poverty, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;
- to generate and allocate sufficient resources at the national and international levels to fulfil our objectives and commitments for social development; and
- to create a strengthened framework for international cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

Questions of resources, follow-up and implementation still remain to be clarified in future negotiations.

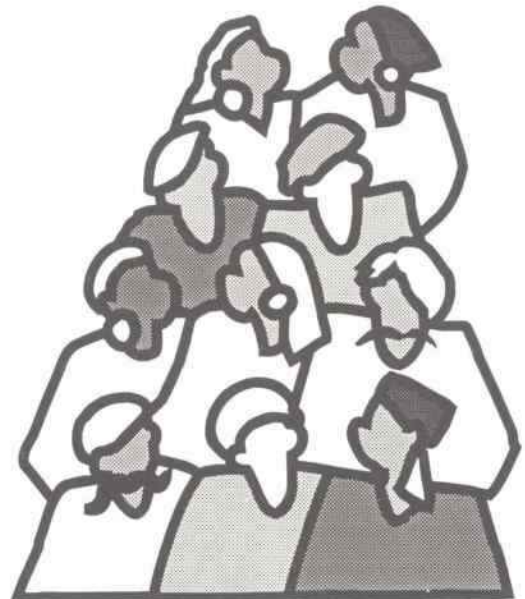
By the end of November, new texts of a draft Declaration and a draft Programme of Action will be circulated for negotiation at PrepCom III in January. These documents will be issued in all official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

### FOCUS OF PREPCOM III (16 - 27 JANUARY 1995)

The third and last session of the Preparatory Committee will take place from 16 to 27 January 1995 in New York. At this meeting the draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action, as well as the calendar of activities for the Summit, should be finalized, although a few contentious issues are likely to remain for final negotiation at the Summit itself.

**"A truly great enterprise, the Social Summit is redirecting issues towards a people-centred future. The work of NGOs has lent energy to the process."**

*—Richard Butler, Vice-Chairperson of the PrepCom and Australian Ambassador to the United Nations*



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## PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The General Assembly decided to convene the World Summit for Social Development by resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992. In addition to addressing poverty, social integration and employment, it decided that the Summit should express a shared worldwide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation.

It was also decided that the Summit should address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social functions of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development. Finally, it should further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development".

## THE SOCIAL SUMMIT'S "CORE ISSUES"

- **Reduction and eradication of poverty:** The Summit hopes to achieve consensus at the highest levels on a commitment to the long-term goal of eradicating poverty and to specific policies and actions to reduce poverty.
- **Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment:** As primary causes of poverty, social unrest and migration, unemployment and low-productivity employment must be replaced by more productive work opportunities.
- **Social integration:** Policy-makers at all levels must address the problems of sharpening social inequalities, fragmentation of societies, and polarization of population or income groups in an effort to better balance individual aspirations with the common good.

## SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

It is planned that heads of State and Government will participate in the two-day Summit session (11-12 March 1995), while their representatives, high-level officials and experts will participate in discussions and consultations from 6 to 10 March.

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark will officially open the Social Summit in a ceremony at the Bella Center on Monday, 6 March, and will receive the heads of State and Government there on 11 March.

Already more than 60 heads of State and Government have indicated that they will attend the Summit.

In addition to government delegations, participants and observers will also include representatives of UN system organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), experts, professional associations and accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

## INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

### SOCIAL SUMMIT LOGO

The Social Summit's vision of a better life for all peoples of the world has been distilled into a simple but powerfully evocative logo depicting three interlinked figures climbing towards the sun. Symbolizing the Summit's three goals — attacking poverty, building solidarity and creating jobs — the logo combines an expression of hope with an assertive symbolism: that hand in hand, step by step, nation by nation, people can ascend a stair-



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case of principles built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and duties to realize the Charter's goals.

This logo, specifications for which may be obtained from the UN Department of Public Information, is being used on all official and information-related material for the Summit. It may also be used by NGOs and other organizations for information purposes relating to the Summit. Permission to use it for fund-raising or commercial purposes must be obtained from the United Nations.

### SOCIAL SUMMIT INFORMATION PRODUCTS

Below are some of the information materials available from the UN Department of Public Information in English, French and Spanish.

#### Print material including:

- Backgrounders, fact sheets, press releases, brochure, and the latest drafts of the Declaration and Programme of Action;
- Fact sheets on relevant aspects of the Summit's core issues as they relate to the work of UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, WHO, UNHCR, UNEP, World Bank, Habitat, etc.;
- Social Summit poster (33.5" x 20"; full colour) in six official languages.

For copies of UN print materials, please contact your local information centre, or NGO Resource Centre New York, for DPI-affiliated NGOs.

#### Audio-visual material including:

- Five 15-minute radio programmes on the core issues, with material collected on-site in Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America; available in the six official languages in early 1995.
- "Toil and Turmoil": 29-min. version of a longer TV documentary dealing with productive work in Finland, South Korea, Mexico and Cameroon; available early 1995 (English, French, Spanish).
- Public service announcements (PSAs): 30-second videos in all official languages for placement on local TV networks.

For copies of A-V materials, please contact Barbara Sue-Ting-Len, Chief, A-V Promotion and Distribution Unit, Tel.: (212) 963 6982; Fax: (212) 963 6869;

cc mail: sue-ting-len @ unhq4.

### NGO BRIEFINGS IN NEW YORK

Weekly NGO briefing sessions are regularly convened by DPI on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at UN Headquarters in New York. A number are devoted to Social Summit-related topics, including, in particular, a special briefing on the results of PrepCom III on 2 February and on the results of the Summit itself on 30 March.

For further details, please contact the DPI/NGO Section, United Nations, New York, NY, Tel.: (212) 963 7236; Fax: (212) 963 1186.



**"I want you to consider the UN your home. Until recently, these words might have caused astonishment. The United Nations was considered to be a forum for sovereign States alone. Within the space of a few short years, this attitude has changed.**

**"Non-governmental organizations are now considered full participants in international life...Their participation in international organizations is, in a way, a guarantee of the political legitimacy of those international organizations."**

— Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Forty-seventh NGO/DPI Conference  
20 September 1994, New York

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## NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT

NGOs' contribution to the Social Summit is considered important by the Preparatory Committee, which stresses that NGO participation is also essential at the national, regional and international levels.

### NGO CAUCUSES

At the first and second PrepCom sessions, NGOs formed themselves into a number of caucuses, or like-minded groups, which met regularly to focus on specific issues and objectives they wanted reflected in the outcome of the Social Summit. The following caucuses also collaborated on the formulation of joint statements.

**Caucuses by geography:** Africa, Asia/Pacific, Caribbean, ECE, Latin America, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

**Caucuses by theme:** Arts and Culture, Deprivation and Trauma, Development, Family, Health, Human Rights, Human Settlements, Issues, Older Persons, Rights of the Child, Values, Women, and Youth.

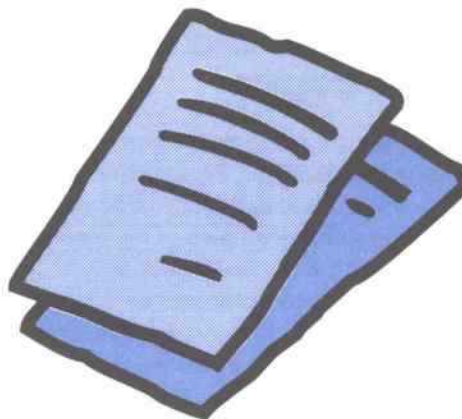
For further information on NGO Caucuses, please contact the NGO Liaison Officer, Social Summit Secretariat (see below).

### ACCREDITATION

Some 300 NGOs attended the second PrepCom session. As of October 1994, 362 NGOs have been expressly accredited to participate in the Summit itself. In addition, another 500 NGOs already accredited to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) have expressed their wish to contribute to preparations for the Summit.

A list of currently accredited NGOs may be obtained from the NGO Liaison Officer for the Social Summit Secretariat or electronically through Internet UNDP gopher and APC electronic communications network.

NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be



accredited automatically upon written request to the address indicated below.

NGOs not in consultative status with ECOSOC, including those accredited only to the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), which desire accreditation to the Summit and its preparatory process, should complete an application form obtained from the NGO Liaison Officer for the Social Summit (see below). Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the organization's most recent annual report which reflects its activities at the national and/or international level.

**Deadline for applications: 15 December 1994** for PrepCom III and for the Summit itself. Any NGO accredited to attend one session of the PrepCom may attend all future sessions, as well as the Summit.

### For information on NGO participation in the Summit, please contact:

NGO Liaison Officer  
Secretariat of the  
World Summit for Social Development  
Room DC2-1372, United Nations  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax: (212) 963 3062  
e-mail: rubinstein @ un.org

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### SUMMIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

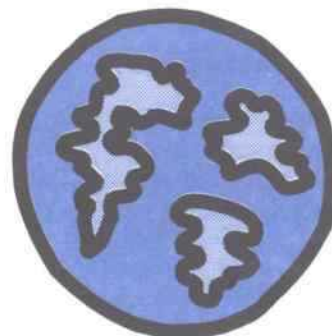
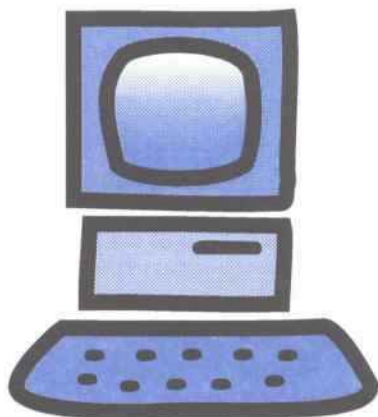
**Global electronic discussion:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is sponsoring an electronic List — **Soc-summit** — to broaden global discussion of the themes of the World Summit for Social Development. The List is administered and monitored by Education Development Center, a nonprofit organization. The UNDP Project Officer in charge of the project is John Lawrence <[John.Lawrence@undp.org](mailto:John.Lawrence@undp.org)>. The List discusses:

- concrete recommendations for policies and action programmes;
- actions that could be taken by the United Nations;
- ideas about the role of international cooperation.

**Technical instructions:**

Anyone who has electronic mail with Internet access can subscribe by E-mailing the LISTSERV host: [MAJORDOMO@CONFER.EDC.ORG](mailto:MAJORDOMO@CONFER.EDC.ORG). Do not enter a subject in the body of the message, type the text: **SUBSCRIBE SOC-SUMMIT**. Do not put your full name after SOC-SUMMIT.

For further information on the Soc-summit List, contact Janice Broadman: <[JANICEB@EDC.ORG](mailto:JANICEB@EDC.ORG)>. Tel.: (617) 969 7100 Fax: (617) 332 6405.



**The Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS):** NGLS is a UN inter-agency unit with offices in both New York and Geneva which focuses on issues of social and sustainable development. It facilitates information exchange between NGOs and the UN system and distributes relevant official UN documents in English, French and Spanish to NGOs via the APC electronic communications network under the access code <[un.socdev.docs](mailto:un.socdev.docs)> conference.

**The Association for Progressive Communications (APC):** APC is a coalition of independent, non-governmental and mostly non-profit computer network systems and provides networking and information-sharing tools worldwide. More than 30,000 NGOs, research institutes, UN agencies and several Governments use APC nodes.

**Internet:** Users can access UN material on the Summit via gopher by connecting to <gopher.undp.org>. Users without gopher access can search by E-mail by sending a message to [gopher@undp.org](mailto:gopher@undp.org). An automated response will then give instructions on how to E-mail access to Summit documents located under the heading **United Nations Conferences**.

**Linkages:** The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), publishers of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, has created a WSSD "point of presence" on the Internet called the "Social Summit Homepage", which is accessible through Mosaic or similar World Wide Web (WWW) software using:

<<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/wssd.html>>.

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## NGO PREPARATIONS FOR THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

Below is a list of major NGO Summit preparatory meetings between November 1994 and March 1995, along with contacts for further details:

**21-26 November 1994  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Regional NGO meeting sponsored by the South Asia Caucus. For details, please contact:

ActionAid India  
3 Rest House Road  
Bangalore, India 560001

**8-10 December 1994  
Havana, Cuba**

Regional meeting for Latin American NGOs preparing for the Social Summit convened by People's Alliance for Social Development. Contact:

People's Alliance for Social Development  
Juan Williams Noon Street 643  
Providencia,  
Santiago, Chile  
Fax: 562 236 02 79

**8-14 January 1995  
Würzburg, Germany**

AIESEC, the International Association of Students in Economics and Management (Bamburg Chapter) is holding its World Youth Social and Economic Conference (WYSEC) on the three main topics of the Social Summit. For further details, contact:

AIESEC LC Bamberg  
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg  
Feldkirchenstrasse 21,  
96045 Bamberg, Germany  
Tel.: 49 951 37599  
Fax: 49 951 8631200

**13-15 January 1995  
New York, NY, USA**

Meeting for all NGOs involved in PrepCom III. For further details, please contact:

People's Alliance for Social Development  
Juan Williams Noon Street 643  
Providencia,  
Santiago, Chile  
Fax: 562 236 02 79

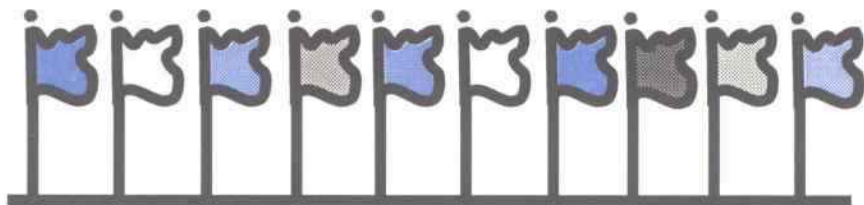
**16-18 January 1995  
Washington, D.C., USA**

"Achieving Global Human Security" is the title of the International Development Conference, co-sponsored with the Society for International Development, addressing topics such as environment and population, food and hunger, human rights, peace-building and conflict resolution, sustainable human development, development education, public policy and advocacy. For details, please contact:

International Development Conference  
c/o Kathy Morrell & Associates  
P.O. Box 11276  
Alexandria, VA 22312  
Tel.: (703) 642 3628  
Fax: (703) 941 4299

The Society for International Development is also sponsoring regional conferences on aspects of human security topics, including gender equity and sustainable livelihoods: **Kuala Lumpur, 8-10 November; Havana, 30 November-3 December; Brasilia, 16-17 January.** For further details, please contact:

Society for International Development  
Palazzo Civita del Lavoro  
00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel.: (396) 592 55 06  
Fax: (396) 591 98 36



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**3-5 February 1995  
New Delhi, India**

The International Jurists Organisation (Asia) is sponsoring an Asia Region Conference on Social Development between PrepCom III and the actual Summit. For details, please contact:

Subhash Chandra Birla  
International Jurists Organisation (Asia)  
3441, Sector-D, Pocket-3, Vasant Kunj.  
New Delhi, 110070, India  
Tel.: (011) 4692859  
Fax: 91-11-6890502

**1-3 March 1995  
Copenhagen, Denmark**

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) will hold an international conference in Copenhagen in preparation for the Social Summit. For further details, contact:

Danish Confederation of Trade Unions  
Rosenørns Alle 12  
1634 Copenhagen V, Denmark  
Fax: (45) 33 37 37 41

**3 - 5 March 1995  
Copenhagen, Denmark**

WAY, the World Assembly of Youth, will sponsor a youth conference entitled "Youth WSSD" just prior to the Social Summit in Copenhagen. For further details, contact:

WAY  
Ved Ballahøj 4  
2700 Bronshøj  
Denmark  
Tel. (45) 31 60 77 70  
Fax: (45) 31 60 57 97

## **NGO ACCOMMODATIONS IN COPENHAGEN**

DIS Congress Service Copenhagen has been contracted to assist NGOs with reservations for hotel accommodations in Copenhagen during the Social Summit. For further details, please contact:

**DIS Congress Service**  
Herlev Ringvej 2 C  
2730 Herlev, Denmark  
Tel. (45) 44 92 44 92  
Fax. (45) 44 92 50 50

**NGO FORUM '95  
3-12 March 1995**

**Copenhagen, Denmark**

Concurrent with the Summit itself, NGOs will hold parallel activities on the former Holmen Naval Base in Copenhagen. The NGO Forum '95 will start a little ahead of the official Summit, namely 3 March, but both the Summit and the NGO Forum '95 end on 12 March.

The former Holmen Naval Base, built on a series of artificial islands, is situated 10 minutes from the centre of Copenhagen and approximately 15 minutes' drive from the Bella Center. Free shuttle-bus service between Holmen and Bella Center will be available, and there will also be direct TV transmission from Bella Center in order that participants on Holmen can follow the events going on at the official Summit.

A fact sheet with practical information on NGO Forum '95 and an international newsletter in English, French, Portuguese and Russian may be obtained from the address below.

NGOs wishing to participate in NGO Forum '95 activities should address their request before 1 December 1994 to:

**NGO Forum '95**

Njalsgade 13 C  
DK 2300 Copenhagen S  
Denmark

Tel.: (45) 32 96 19 95  
Fax. (45) 32 96 89 19

E-Mail: [ngo95dk@inet.uni-c.dk](mailto:ngo95dk@inet.uni-c.dk)



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