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**Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social  
Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the  
General Assembly**

**Follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of  
the World Summit for Social Development and of the  
twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/146 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. The report provides an overview of the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, which took place during the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development. It reflects the deliberations held during the high-level segment of the Commission and highlights the uneven progress made in achieving the goals and targets adopted at the Summit, suggesting that the strengthening of implementation at all levels and in all areas continues to be essential. The report ends with a number of conclusions emanating from the 10-year review conducted by the Commission.

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\* A/60/50 and Corr.1.

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/146 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly. The report is the eleventh in a series on this subject since the holding of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, and the first report after the holding of the 10-year review of the Summit in February 2005.

2. In the context of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2004/58, decided that the forty-third session of the Commission should convene high-level plenary meetings on the 10-year review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action<sup>1</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. The Council also requested that the Commission transmit its outcome entitled “Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development”, through the Council to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) in 2005.

3. This report provides a summary of the deliberations held by the Commission on the 10-year review of the Summit and ends with several conclusions emanating therefrom.

## **II. Recapitulation of the high-level plenary segment of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development**

4. The tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development was observed during the first part of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, which was held from 9 to 18 February 2005. On 9 February, two high-level panel discussions were held on the 10-year review. The first panel consisted of representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The second panel comprised the executive secretaries of the regional commissions: the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

5. Also in the context of the 10-year review of the World Summit for Social Development, there was a presentation of the outcome of the fourth International Forum for Social Development entitled “Equity, inequality and interdependence”. In addition, a civil society forum entitled “Reclaiming Copenhagen” was held immediately prior to the forty-third session of the Commission. The outcome of the forum was also presented to the members of the Commission during its plenary session.

6. Following the opening of the high-level plenary meeting on 10 February, the Commission continued with three simultaneous high-level round tables, held in the

framework of the 10-year review, on the three core issues addressed by the World Summit for Social Development: eradicating poverty, promoting full employment and fostering social integration. The purpose of the round tables was to review what had been achieved since the Summit in 1995, to identify further constraints and challenges in those key areas and to forge an implementation strategy. Linkages to the implementation of the 10 commitments adopted by the Summit and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals were also examined.

7. The high-level plenary meeting to review progress in implementing the commitments made at Copenhagen resumed its session in the afternoon of 10 February. Following the round tables, some 80 speakers took the floor, including 31 ministers and another 26 Government representatives from capitals, as well as representatives from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and non-governmental organizations. Speakers acknowledged that progress over the past decade had been largely uneven and that concerted and far-reaching efforts were needed to create a society for all and to reinforce the inclusive vision as called for by the World Summit for Social Development. There was wide recognition of the need to mitigate the negative effects of globalization and to address the unfavourable trade relationships that marginalized some populations, exacerbated income inequalities between countries and hindered the ability of developing countries to mobilize resources and advance social development.

8. Speakers during the two-day high-level segment encouraged countries to meet and to strengthen their pledges of official development assistance (ODA), noting that a common characteristic of poor countries was the servicing of the principal and interest on their external debt. Innovative proposals mentioned for financing social development included the creation of a tax on international transactions, a scheme for an international finance facility to improve the coordination and transparency of aid flows and programmes of exchange of debt relief for social development initiatives.

9. Speakers also called attention to the changing dynamics of the global labour market and the lack of an international strategy for employment and migration. Noting that human mobility was a central theme of globalization, a number of countries expressed the need for increased dialogue and cooperation to ensure that the rights and social dimensions affecting migrants were taken into account.

10. Speakers underlined the need for the United Nations to continue to support regional and subregional initiatives on social and economic development, and in that connection noted that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) should be given priority attention as a partner in development. Several speakers also mentioned that the commonly used definition of poverty as living on less than one dollar a day was too limited and that researchers and policymakers should explore better ways of measuring poverty that went beyond this quantitative value. Furthermore, when designing new initiatives, it was necessary to view poor people not as passive recipients of aid but as active players who possess the ability to improve their economic status within institutional and legal environments.

### **III. Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development**

11. The Commission adopted a final outcome document entitled “Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development”,<sup>2</sup> which will be transmitted to the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005, through the Economic and Social Council, as a contribution to the 5-year review of the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration reaffirmed, *inter alia*, that the commitments in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action constituted the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and that the need for continued implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session were crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development. More significantly, it recognized that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals were mutually reinforcing.

12. The Declaration further reaffirms that enhanced international cooperation and action at the national level are essential to the implementation of Copenhagen. To this end it underlines the importance of adopting effective measures that include new financial mechanisms to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and strengthening of their democratic systems. Member countries renewed their commitment to support national efforts to promote a favourable environment for social and economic development, including the provision of technical and financial assistance through regional and other initiatives such as NEPAD.

13. In the context of the three core issues of the Summit, the Declaration reaffirmed, *inter alia*, that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty alleviation should incorporate specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities, that an employment strategy with full respect for basic principles under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity should constitute a fundamental component of development strategies, and that the social impact and dimension of globalization deserved further attention. The declaration further recommitted countries to promote social integration by fostering societies that were safe and just based on the promotion of all human rights and reaffirmed the importance of promoting the goals of universal and equitable access.

14. The Declaration recommits Governments to one of the basic tenets of the Copenhagen Declaration: that people must be at the centre of development efforts. It will be recalled that the Programme of Action adopted by the Summit sought to accomplish this by emphasizing the eradication of poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. It acknowledged that policies to eradicate poverty must work in parallel: on the one hand to increase opportunities and access to resources and on the other to reduce inequalities in the distribution of assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services. Also, the 117 heads of State at Copenhagen recognized an unequivocal link among poverty, unemployment and social disintegration and between security and the rising gap between rich and poor, and warned that if society wanted to reduce social tensions and create greater social and economic stability and security, then it must address inequalities within and among countries and invest in social development.

## **IV. Summary of substantive discussions, including those in the high-level panels and round tables, on the 10-year review of the World Summit for Social Development**

### **A. Overview**

15. This section highlights the points made in the round tables and panel discussions by the high-level representatives of Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and participants from civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, who participated in the forty-third session of the Commission on the 10-year review. It also takes into consideration the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission for Social Development on the review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.5/2005/6) as a contribution on that subject, as well as the compilation of materials sent from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to the Secretariat for its deliberations.<sup>3</sup>

16. It was pointed out that a number of trends had been adversely affecting social development since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development a decade ago. Also, the broad concept of social development affirmed by all world leaders in Copenhagen has gradually become less comprehensive and has even been severely weakened in global policymaking. While poverty is front and centre in development policy and discourse, the other two core issues of the Summit — employment and social integration — have suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking. It was noted that the centrality of employment and the fundamental contribution of social integration to economic and social development were absent in the Millennium Development Goals and that the injection of those missing links into the Goals, particularly within the context of poverty eradication, was needed to shore up efforts to build more inclusive, just and stable societies.

17. Although the Summit laid the groundwork for the Goals, the effort since then to prioritize action by focusing on the Goals has resulted in the narrowing of the international development agenda. The Commission for Social Development, in trying to counter this trend, has sought to highlight the broader social development picture first portrayed in Copenhagen.

### **B. Enabling environment**

18. It will be recalled that the World Summit for Social Development recognized that the link between and integration of economic and social policies was imperative to building a conducive environment for social development and that international cooperation had a major role to play in supporting national social development efforts, especially in Africa and the least developed countries. The review by the Commission for Social Development reveals that a number of factors continued to impede the ability to create an enabling environment, including natural and man-made disasters, such as armed conflict, earthquakes, floods, droughts and HIV/AIDS. National and global governance and policy frameworks can either

promote or hinder social development, depending on the quality of governance and the policies formulated within such frameworks.

19. Policymaking that is consistent with social development goals also needs a decision-making system that incorporates the principles of participation and transparency and consideration for equity and equality. Democratization and the increasingly important role of civil society organizations as partners for social development, despite the decline in the role of trade unions, helps to promote transparency and accountability. However, even under a democratic system, social development goals, which often reflect the concerns of the marginalized in society, are at risk of being downgraded to a position of lesser priority because of the voice and participation of those most affected are inadequate.

20. The dominant perspective on development at the time of the Summit focused on the virtues of the market in guiding the course of development. In the decade since, economic globalization has expanded dramatically, while social and political institutions have remained largely national, not providing needed oversight of global markets to redress inequalities among countries. Globalization in its current form has been partly blamed for the widening gap between rich and poor countries, as measured by the inequality of average incomes across countries. The asymmetries of globalization and lack of public oversight have contributed to a situation in which the costs and benefits of globalization are not equitably shared among countries and peoples.

21. A deteriorating security situation can have detrimental consequences for development. Insecurity can lead to increased military spending and result in shrinking opportunities, as investors and donors abandon unstable areas and local social and economic activities are curtailed. Given that the world has surpassed the \$1 trillion mark in global defence spending, obstacles to reallocating defence spending are all the more challenging to overcome, as are efforts to address ways to reduce armed conflict and violence.

22. How social development is financed, especially in poorer countries, is central to achieving the objective of improving social conditions, as highlighted at Copenhagen. Moreover, failure to deal with the importance of the social dimension of development can foil efforts at sustainable development. Inspired in large part by the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, the World Bank, for example, has become more sensitive to the social dimensions of development. Particular progress has been made in according greater recognition to the need to embed social policy within economic policy as a way of fostering overall development. In addition, IMF is attempting to work with its partners to ensure that the social dimensions of development are addressed at the macroeconomic level, which has led it to focus on poverty reduction strategies and how macroeconomic policies affect social development.

23. The debates of the Commission reaffirmed that adequate financial resources were a prerequisite for social development, although the provision of resources itself did not automatically lead to social development. Both the Copenhagen Declaration and the further initiatives adopted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly called for increasing current levels of ODA as soon as possible, thereby increasing the flow of resources available for social development. However, despite a modest rise in aid from an all-time low of 0.22 per cent, ODA

remains far below what it was during the 1980s and early 1990s, even though all donor countries became richer during 2004.<sup>4</sup>

### **C. Poverty**

24. Even though Governments have given greater priority to poverty since the World Summit for Social Development by setting poverty reduction targets and enacting poverty eradication plans, progress has been uneven and the global scenario overshadows sharp regional and national differences. The decisive influence of China and India's economic growth on the overall levels of economic expansion has had a huge impact on global poverty levels. However, in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America poverty reduction has been stagnant, and in Western Asia poverty has actually increased. Although a lack of sustained growth has been a major obstacle to reducing poverty, it is important to ensure that the benefits of growth are redistributed for sectors such as education and health.

25. There is wide consensus that coordinated global and national action is needed in the fight against poverty and that in order to formulate effective poverty eradication strategies, the root causes of poverty have to be recognized and understood. Among these wide-ranging causes are unequal distribution of income and assets, insecurity and vulnerability, and social exclusion and powerlessness.

26. The persistence of inequalities in income, assets and opportunities exacerbates poverty, and high unemployment rates and lack of access to resources, such as land, credit, markets and information, further limit the productive capacity of poor people. In addition, lack of access to basic services, such as education and health care, limits the opportunities available to poor people, while social exclusion and lack of a voice prevent poor people from fully participating in decisions that affect their lives. Weak social protection, exacerbated by long-term civil conflict and the breakdown of the rule of law, magnifies the vulnerability and insecurity of poor people. Empowering the disadvantaged, especially women, who constitute the bulk of those who are poor, should be at the centre of a comprehensive approach to poverty.

27. The point emerged from the review that at the international level, poverty existed in both developed and developing countries. Thus, the global commitment to eradicating poverty should be on a sustained basis and not just in response to financial emergencies or national calamities. This commitment can take the form of debt relief, innovative partnerships between regions and countries, including consultations with the private sector, and the sharing of information and best practices for poverty eradication.

28. Considerations of equity and equality are far from being incorporated into national strategies in such vital areas as promoting agriculture and sustainable rural development; improving access to education, health care, social protection and other social services; targeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and promoting employment opportunities. Integrating these elements into and strengthening the relationship between macroeconomic policies and social development goals are key elements of national poverty reduction strategies.



## D. Employment

29. The review points to the fact that progress in expanding employment has fallen far short of expectations and that the past years have seen a rise in global unemployment levels. Where job growth has taken place, it has been concentrated in insecure, informal employment with low wages and few benefits.

30. The issue of the centrality of employment to poverty reduction has been lacking from international policy discussions, with the exception of the inclusion of youth employment in the Millennium Development Goals. Promoting full and productive employment is a prerequisite for better and more equally distributed income, growth and development, and expanding access to quality jobs is essential for achieving peace, stability and social cohesion. The application of macroeconomic policies, without measuring their social impacts, has led to increased poverty and unemployment and even to the risk of social disintegration of many societies. As with social development, macroeconomic policies should incorporate employment creation as a key objective.

31. Globalization and international trade are closely linked to the employment situation in developing countries, with protectionist trade policies potentially leading to job losses, particularly in agriculture, and the actions of transnational corporations possibly compromising local labour standards. Shifts in the patterns of production and trade, as in the case of outsourcing, are creating new winners and losers: 80 per cent of the global population has no access to social protection.

32. It was mentioned, however, that despite some recent negative trends, globalization can be a positive force for the creation of decent work. The goal of full employment is possible, but only if all relevant actors take responsibility for full employment. The high level of unemployment among young people is of particular concern. In this regard, the establishment of the Youth Employment Network and its recommendations for addressing this situation are recognized.

33. In some cases, significant progress has been made in terms of employment creation despite the imposition of punitive and discriminatory policies. Debt-servicing obligations undermine the ability of many developing countries to finance investment in human capital and infrastructure, thereby affecting economic growth and the generation of employment. In this context, it is considered vital to re-examine ODA so that it is directed at employment promotion and to rectify the imbalance between taxation levels for labour and capital at the national level.

34. Within the context of a global employment agenda, ILO has developed a decent work agenda that emphasizes employment, rights at the workplace, social protection and social dialogue. It has also put more emphasis on ensuring that employment and decent work goals are incorporated in both the formal and informal sectors and in poverty reduction strategies. An important contribution of ILO was the establishment of an independent World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, whose 2004 report highlights the potential of globalization to improve social welfare and the ways in which Governments, business, labour, parliamentarians, civil society and the international community can all work towards promoting a more inclusive globalization.

35. The effects of international migration on labour markets and the growing recognition of international migration is a central issue on the global agenda,

highlighting the need for global, regional and bilateral frameworks. The brain drain from developing countries that has resulted from the free movement of skilled labour while the movement of unskilled labour remains restricted has led to increased inequality between countries and regions. There is concern that the increased flow of remittances, although a valuable source of income for many developing countries, may become a justification for donors to withdraw or limit aid to developing countries.

## **E. Social integration**

36. The World Summit for Social Development viewed failures of social integration to include social fragmentation; widening disparities and inequalities; and strains on individuals, families, communities and institutions as a result of the rapid pace of social change, economic transformation, migration and major dislocation of populations, particularly in areas of armed conflict.

37. The debate at the Commission for Social Development pointed out that progress in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration in social integration has lost ground. Social integration has not been fully integrated into the general discourse outside social development circles, which underscores the erosion of the principle of solidarity among peoples, societies and nations. The rift between efforts to achieve the aims of the Millennium Development Goals and those of the broader commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development is apparent, making it more difficult to focus on a people-centred approach. Although globalization can yield advantages and encourage social development, the differing pace of globalization across countries has brought about greater social exclusion.

38. In many countries, groups with special needs are marginalized in the political process. Persons with disabilities, among others, require special focus. Their integration requires legal instruments to protect them from discrimination and to ensure their rights and equal opportunities in society. Similar protections are required for immigrants, refugees and displaced persons. The needs of ageing populations are of growing concern. For example, if changes are not made in current systems for the financing of pensions and long-term care, future generations of older persons may be left without adequate social protection. Despite the fact that the family is facing tremendous pressures and is undergoing significant changes, it is essential for facilitating social inclusion.

39. Fostering social integration requires tools to empower individuals, including through education, by providing people with the skills to participate in society and to engage in productive employment. The education of girls is particularly important as it yields the highest return on investment in developing countries. Investment in health is also vital for social integration; public health policy can directly influence social development, combat poverty and reduce social exclusion.

40. The role of civil society is vital in promoting a people-centred approach. By working locally, civil society organizations are able to ensure that those who need support have access to it. In addition to civil society, Governments and the private sector all need mechanisms, networks and institutions through which to build consensus and improve collaboration.

## **F. Status at the regional level**

41. The panel discussion with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions on regional perspectives on the implementation of the World Summit on Social Development focused primarily on the core issues of poverty, employment and social integration. Mixed progress was reported by all of the commissions, and many of the same constraints facing the regions that were present at the time the Summit took place continue to prevail. In areas where global indicators have improved, the progress made and the pace of change vary widely between regions, and even more so within countries. Rising levels of income inequality within and among countries threaten the possibility of lifting people out of poverty, promoting employment and fostering social integration.

42. The executive secretaries also elaborated on their plans to implement gender mainstreaming policies, to address growing demographic imbalances and to improve coordination between the regional commissions and actors in civil society. The issue of violence and youth was also raised, as was the question of how best to face the challenge of gathering reliable data.

### **Africa**

43. In sub-Saharan Africa, poverty has continued to rise and over one third of the population is undernourished. There has been a net addition of more than 63 million people to the ranks of the poor. Unemployment on the continent is extremely high and underemployment is rampant, affecting 40 per cent of the labour force. Some progress is evident in the area of social integration, which has been attributed to the growth of democracy and some improvement in governance throughout the region. While conflict continues to be a major disruptive factor, the African Union has made important achievements in conflict resolution and progress in the areas of civil society organization and gender equality.

44. Prevailing challenges include low growth, persistent poverty and weak governance, the social and economic disruption resulting from conflict and shortfalls in health and educational services. Inadequate financial resources and weak human and institutional capacity add further constraints to these challenges. Finally, NEPAD will continue to play an instrumental role in providing a framework to address these challenges and allow Africans to take ownership of the development process.

### **Europe**

45. Less-advanced and emerging market economies in Europe are facing major challenges. Since the reforms of the late 1980s, less-advanced economies have been facing massive poverty and increasing inequality. The issues of quality and access to health care are inadequately addressed, and, coupled with a decrease in life expectancy, the decline in fertility rates and the rapid spread of infectious diseases, those major challenges remain.

46. Key trends in emerging market economies include high and increasing unemployment and low employment rates. Disparities in income are growing quickly within some countries, and urban/rural and regional inequalities in per capita gross domestic product are widening. Education, social and pension reforms

have led to the deterioration of the immediate social situation of the majority of the population.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

47. Since the World Summit for Sustainable Development, the Latin American and the Caribbean region has experienced an overall lack of social progress. While poverty rates have decreased slightly in recent years, the total number of poor people has risen substantially. Since 1990, urban unemployment and informal employment have increased, and the number of those employed in the formal economy has been decreasing. Workers without social protection now comprise the vast majority of the urban labour force.

48. Furthermore, the persistence of income concentration and employment constraints threatens social integration by segmenting society and reducing social protection and the participation of the poor in the development process. Disruptive processes, such as risky and violent behaviour among youth, have emerged as obstacles in the labour market and as difficulties in achieving growth of social mobility.

49. On a positive note, Governments have increased the levels of public social expenditure, which has contributed somewhat to alleviating the special needs of poor people and vulnerable groups. Similarly, significant progress has been made in the implementation of policies aimed at reversing discrimination against women and against indigenous and Afro-descendant groups, but sharp disparities still prevail.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

50. Efforts to eliminate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region have produced mixed results. While some areas have reported progress, there is a need to transform national poverty reduction strategies into effective policies in areas where the situation has deteriorated.

51. Unemployment rates for females are higher than those for males, and youth unemployment is greater than that of adults. Furthermore, the region is home to 70 per cent of the illiterate population of the world (600 million persons), 65 per cent of whom are women.

52. There has been improvement in the area of social integration, specifically in the formulation of comprehensive social development programmes and the revision of laws vis-à-vis vulnerable groups. In addition, institutional arrangements for social development are being established with time-specific targets to ensure cost efficiency and maximum impact.

53. The recent Indian Ocean tsunami brought great devastation in human and economic terms to the region. A framework of action is under way that includes the development of an early warning system, the building of infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities and the expansion of financial assistance.

### **Western Asia**

54. Efforts to create an enabling environment for social development in the region include governance and democracy projects and numerous community development undertakings. Progress has been made in poverty alleviation and in the preparation

of technical studies on the measurement, characteristics and determinants of poverty, as well as the development of policy tools necessary for poverty reduction.

55. With a view to achieving full employment, technical studies have been conducted on the effects of globalization, the creation of employment opportunities among the rural population and the promotion of new technologies. In the area of social integration, activities aimed at improving the situation of vulnerable groups have included implementing field projects, preparing studies and organizing seminars and training workshops to strengthen community self-reliance. In addition to encouraging policymakers and donors to increase resources allotted for social development, studies have been prepared to improve access to education and primary health care.

56. It is felt that national, regional and international efforts must be interlinked to achieve social development goals in the region. At the international level, political, financial and technical support are a prerequisite to overcoming challenges; promoting an environment free of war and instability is necessary to facilitate such support.

## V. Conclusions

57. Based on the foregoing, the following points emerged from the high-level segment of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. They are presented to the General Assembly in the framework of strengthening social development and giving due consideration to a people-centred approach in the context of the five-year review of the Millennium Declaration.

**58. A people-centred approach to development requires integrating economic and social policies, notably integrating social development goals into macroeconomic policies at the national and global levels; better management of the economic and social consequences of the interdependence of nations in a globalizing world; and a new approach to relations between the public and the private spheres and the role of the State in formulating and carrying out economic and social policies.**

**59. Macroeconomic policies should enable Governments to counter the negative impacts of globalization on social development. This entails adopting monetary and fiscal policies that seek to expand employment and reduce poverty and focusing on long-term development rather than short-term allocative efficiency. Economic growth by itself is not sufficient, and high growth rates alone will not guarantee significant poverty reduction.**

**60. Poverty reduction policies should attack poverty by addressing its root causes and manifestations and incorporate equity and equality measures in those policies. Addressing the root causes of poverty requires the collective efforts of Governments, international organizations, civil society and other partners, with voluntarism and social mobilization serving as powerful partners in the fight against poverty. Specific policy measures should guarantee access by the marginalized to assets and opportunities — particularly to education, land, capital and technology. Policies should also expand international and bilateral cooperation, including the transfer of technology and the sharing of experiences and good practices; promote good governance**

and the rule of law; and take into account the gender dimension of poverty, particularly the feminization of poverty, when formulating strategies.

61. Employment policies should promote decent work under conditions of equity, security and dignity, and incorporate job creation into macroeconomic policy. Greater attention must be given to the informal economy as it does not provide social protection and may deepen gender inequalities. Thus, specific measures should incorporate the informal sector in social protection programmes and promote job creation by directing investment to productive and labour-intensive sectors, in addition to encouraging small- and medium-sized enterprises. Given the level of job mobility and dislocation inherent in today's dynamic labour market, active labour market policies are essential to fostering the smooth reallocation of labour from declining industries to new and emerging ones.

62. Social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, to promote access to education and health care and to increase the participation and integration of older persons, youth, migrants, indigenous persons and persons with disabilities. They should counter the negative effects of globalization on social development and the new threats posed by market-driven reforms, as they appear to produce social exclusion. The private sector should be encouraged to make investments in social sectors and provide civil society organizations with support to carry out programmes. Moreover, such programmes should widen public participation in decision-making by ensuring access of information to citizens and establishing mechanisms for reviewing Government policies. The collection of statistics to better identify the most vulnerable groups should also be strengthened.

63. Efforts should be intensified to help countries achieve social development goals through the provision of resources — both technical and financial — and to eliminate the debilitating debt burden in order to allow countries to redirect their scarce resources to social expenditures.

64. Advancing global initiatives that strengthen policy coherence, both nationally and internationally, is crucial. At the international level, high-level inter-ministerial coordinating committees could be established to implement strategic plans and actions in areas crucial to social development, such as employment creation and social integration.

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> See *Economic and Social Council, Official Records, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>3</sup> ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, ILO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

<sup>4</sup> See Development Initiatives, "Briefing on aid in 2004" ([www.devit.org/dgagfigs2004brief2.pdf](http://www.devit.org/dgagfigs2004brief2.pdf)).