Contributions from relevant organs, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

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* Note: Contributions submitted by 3 December 2004 have been included in this compilation. UN agencies are presented in alphabetical order, followed by UN regional commissions in alphabetical order. Each contribution has been summarized, attempting to include main initiatives; for a full account of each contribution, please consult individual papers (available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/).

I. SUMMARY OF INITIATIVES AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION

COMMITMENT 1:   AN   ENABLING   ENVIRONMENT   FOR   SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

In order to create an environment conducive to social development, UN agencies and regional commissions have, *inter alia,* implemented context-specific policies necessary to address challenges arising from global development and economic liberalisation. Efforts have been made to raise awareness through education and the development of research networks while special attention has been given to the identification of cultural needs imposed by globalisation and to achieve inclusive, sustainable development. The integration of a human rights perspective has also been promoted.

IMF
In order to create an environment where the benefits of free trade can be enjoyed by all states, the IMF in its commitment to trade liberalisation created the Trade Integration Mechanism in 2004. This is a policy directed at addressing the possible balance of payments impact of liberalisation by other countries, agreed in the context of the WTO or implemented unilaterally on a non-discriminatory basis. Under TIM, the IMF stands ready to support members in designing appropriate adjustment policies and providing financial assistance to help address any related balance of payment problems.

UNDP
The human rights strengthening programme of UNDP and OHCHR (HURIST) was set up in 1999 to support UNDP's policy on integrating human rights with its activities. A Common Understanding among UN agencies on the application of a human rights based approach to development was agreed upon, and the UNDP has adopted a practice Note on Poverty Reduction and Human Rights to strengthen its policy, programming and capacity development support to programme countries.

UNDP has continued to build upon its well-established track record in building, consolidating, and preserving peace. UNDP has played a major role in helping countries make the transition to a development-oriented agenda by promoting the rule of law and good governance; justice and security; demobilizing soldiers; reducing the flow of small arms; supporting mine action; and providing war-affected populations with alternative livelihoods.

Conflict prevention and peace building continued to be a UNDP priority area. UNDP assisted countries in strengthening governance institutions key to the prevention of conflicts and their underlying causes. In Kyrgyzstan, UNDP collaborated with the Government on an innovative programme to prevent ethnic strife. Beyond strengthening

the foundation of participatory local government, the pilot project established an early warning information system. Community organizations, many with multi-ethnic members, were trained to work with local government on managing conflict.

UNESCO
One of the main activities of UNESCO in the field of human rights is generating and sharing knowledge through research, with a special focus on economic, social and cultural rights, including poverty alleviation and development. The organization has contributed, for example, to the emergence of the concept of the right to development and its implementation. One of the components of UNESCO's Strategy on Human Rights is the integration of a human rights-based approach into the planning, implementation and evaluation of all UNESCO's activities and programmes, mainly through the training of staff.

The Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations (1997) aims at highlighting the prospective dimension of human sustainable development. UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity proposed to place culture in the centre of the sustainable development process. The importance attributed to culture should facilitate the fight against poverty and have a durable protection of the environment, taking into account the recommendations of the UNESCO/UNEP roundtable on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit, September 2002).

Through pilot projects, capacity building and public awareness raising, LINKS ("Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems") bring together all UNESCO's programme sectors to develop informal economies using natural resources as a means of livelihood in a rural milieu, and support traditional knowledge, practices and ways of life, as dynamic resources in the development process. It works towards recognition of indigenous peoples as equal partners in such a process.

In line with the conclusion of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development that added cultural diversity as the "fourth pillar" of sustainability, cultural tourism strategies and field projects have been developed, focusing on: raising awareness and education on cultural heritage and cultural issues of tourism; helping stakeholders in the designing of competitive and fair tourism strategies including capacity building and participation of local population; safeguarding of cultural heritage; good governance and poverty alleviation.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO works towards sustainable and equitable development in the coastal zone through better-informed management and governance of marine natural resources, and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme promotes better access to natural resources, especially in rural areas.

The Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) Platform is addressing priority areas of sustainable development. Its intersectoral programme has been pursued through field projects, university chairs/twinning, and an internet-based forum, in order to refine and

apply "wise practices" for sustainable human development and further the strategic objective of promoting principles and ethical norms to guide scientific and technological development and social transformation.

Founded on the belief that there can be no peace without the intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind, UNESCO tries to involve all countries in this international and transcultural discussion. In confirming the ethics of science and technology as the principal priority of UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences since 2002, UNESCO has reinforced its strategy to develop and implement policy frameworks for the ethical problems arising from the advances in science and technology.

UNESCO is a major driving force in developing the global standards and their implementation in policy, legislation, research and professional activities. Its advisory bodies – the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), and the World Commission of the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) – are assisting UNESCO in standard-setting, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. UNESCO has confirmed this role by contributing to the formulation of basic principles in bioethics through the *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights*, and the *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data*.

Training programmes for librarians, archivists, communication and informatics professionals, as well as for teachers have been developed. Other efforts have focused on the use of satellite-based services to support distance learning, telemedicine and collaborative virtual work environments and supporting the development of communication and information capacities. Furthermore, UNESCO has been facilitating co-operation and exchange of experiences, techniques and technologies among developing countries as well as between developed and developing countries.

UNIDO
The UNIDO corporate strategy, *Productivity enhancement for social advance*, was developed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In line with the corporate strategy UNIDO technical cooperation activities are based on five service modules created to meet the evolving needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and directly contribute to social development:
- *Service module one* assists beneficiary countries to monitor, benchmark and analyzes their industrial performance and capabilities to formulate, implement and monitor strategies, policies and programmes to improve the contribution of industry to productivity growth and the achievement of the MDGs.
- *Service module two* is aimed at overcoming the variety of policy and market failures that constrain domestic and foreign investment activity and the ability to engage in effective technology development and management.
- *Service module three* is designed to take full advantage of the liberalisation of international markets resulting from the process of globalisation, in particular by strengthening local capacities to meet technical standards and conformity requirements that limit their access to international markets.
- *Service module four* focuses on strengthening the private sector, in particular to

promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- *Service module five* seeks to enhance the productivity of agricultural processing industries, and thereby to enable them to increase output and exports, create employment and generate increased income and value added from the agricultural sector.

WORLD BANK
The strategic priorities set out in the World Bank's Social Development Strategy aim to mainstream social development tools throughout the Bank's business models and support innovations in the way social development approaches address development challenges. Each Bank regional team will tailor its application and priorities in response to country contexts, capacities and demands. The key priorities aim to increase attention to social development in policy dialogue and development policy and project lending. This is achieved by strengthening multi-stakeholder participation in the development and monitoring of macro strategy projects and by encouraging freestanding country-level social analysis and components to inform the policy dialogue and strategy. The Bank also aims to improve its own ability and that of its external partners to address social development by improving staff capacity and increasing research on social development while sustaining in-house and corporate advocacy on social development.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
In its effort to promote social development and facilitate investment in marginal areas and their populations, the World Food Programme (WFP), is maintaining its policy of using food aid to influence the trade-offs that a poor food-insecure household makes, linking consumption and investment in ways that help the household or community in a longer term. In assisting national governments to provide food-based safety nets to vulnerable groups, WFP contributes to freeing up their resources and reduce the risk to enable them make investments like adopting new farming techniques, sending their children to school and other asset creating activities.

WFP uses Food-for-work (FFW) and Food-for-Assets (FFA) projects as a measure of facilitating investment in marginal areas. FFW and FFA are used as a means to protect or promote household food security while simultaneously contributing to a region's long-term development and individual capacity building. This is realized through skills training and creating or improving public assets such as rural feeder roads that link remote areas to markets to improve farmers' household incomes, valley dams, irrigation systems, schools and health centre structures to increase access of the poor to public services, etc.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
The WHO has launched a major initiative to strengthen work on children, health and the environment. The Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) was launched in Johannesburg in 2002 with a view to promoting effective policies and interventions through communications, advocacy and information sharing, and encouraging action at country and community levels.

WHO is also contributing to the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators aimed at developing and testing indicators of children's environmental health as tools for a better understanding of the status of children's environmental health. Other activities launched at WSSD with which WHO is involved include an initiative on Strengthening Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI). HELI will gather and disseminate scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on environment and health linkages via toolkits, workshops, and pilot projects, and will provide country level decision-makers with the guidance on the use of assessment methodologies such as health impact assessment, environment impact assessment, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA

Several projects have been undertaken by the ECA that are geared towards providing transparent and accountable governance. The project on "Monitoring Progress Towards Good Governance in Africa" sought to measure and monitor progress towards good governance in the continent and to promote people's participation in development processes. The ECA also undertook a comprehensive and detailed study to assess the state of governance in Africa which revealed that good governance is increasingly taking hold in the continent. Looking ahead, the ECA, in partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat, is committed to assisting member States do self-examination, take corrective measures and maintain them. In this regard, some governments had launched civil service reform programs to strengthen the national capacity in the management of public services and development initiatives.

ESCWA

In 2001 ESCWA embarked on a project titled "*Towards Integrated Social Development Policies in the ESCWA Countries*" which aims at enhancing an integrated approach for building a social vision as well as strengthening national and regional capacities for social policy analysis. The project aims at linking all social issues at the national policy making level with the objective of limiting the deteriorating social situation of vulnerable groups and dealing with issues related to upgrading the social conditions of concerned countries by tackling social sectors in a holistic approach.

In an effort to contribute to the promotion of democracy in the Arab world, ESCWA is in the process of establishing a network in the form of *Database of Democracy in the Arab World* to address and alleviate the shortfall in information and to deepen the ongoing process of democratization. The database will cover four main areas: elections; freedom of speech, association and assembly; the institutional setting in Arab countries as well as an index of democracy in the Arab world. As such, this will represent an ongoing survey of the institutional setting in Arab countries and present useful information, resources and assessments of best practices pertaining to democratic political design and institutionalization.

COMMITMENT 2: POVERTY ERADICATION

We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind.

UN agencies and regional commissions are working to combat the multidimensionality of poverty on differing levels. New research methods are relying more fully on the participation of the poor to understand the causes and the effects of poverty on social development and cohesion. Members of civil society and development partners also have been given a key voice in policy dialogue while country-based development strategies are being implemented as each must be tailored to meet the specific needs of individual countries.

The vulnerabilities of the poor due to lack of food security, adequate housing, employment, financial services and the delivery of health services are highlighted. Development plans to give the poor access to these resources and capacity building to increase self reliance have been designed for both urban and rural settings.

FAO
FAO presented the Anti-Hunger Programme on the occasion of the World Food Summit in 1996 which proposed a two-track approach to achieve food security by improving both food production as well as access to food by the needy and hungry. FAO has contributed to reducing the vulnerability of agricultural communities to natural disasters by committing itself to prevent and being prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery rehabilitation development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.

FAO has implemented the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative to build the capacities and increase self-reliance of the rural population. It also creates organizations and networks to improve access to resources, and fosters fairer conditions of employment in agriculture. A similar programme for mountain regions is currently under development. A FAO study on Farming Systems Evolution for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD-FSE) is underway with national inter-institutional teams in Honduras, Mali and the Philippines, to enhance the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions to plan, implement and evaluate SARD policies and strategies.

FAO has provided assistance to governments in the identification and the preparation of projects on improving rural institutions and services and promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods. It has also supported countries in developing and adopting policies, programmes, and best practices and tools for land tenure to facilitate access to land, ensure user rights and improve land markets. Additionally, assistance has been provided to establish policy guidelines and legislative mechanisms for conflict resolution to improve access to land for the landless using various land reform approaches in a manner that is gender responsive and environmentally sustainable.

IFAD

The agency's mandate is to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty. IFAD's commitment to achieving the Copenhagen Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals is reflected in its *Strategic Framework for 2002-2006.* During this period, IFAD concentrates its investments, research and knowledge management efforts, policy dialogue and advocacy on the attainment of three strategic objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations
- Improving equitable access to productive natural resources and technology
- Increasing access to financial assets and markets

IFAD has encouraged and supported innovations in rural finance in several ways. Under the Rural Pro-Poor Innovation Challenge, set up with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), awards were given in 2002 and 2003 to 15 rural finance institutions around the world to support their innovations in reaching very poor people with financial services. IFAD has also supported the Micro-credit Summit Campaign in its efforts to help microfinance institutions throughout Asia improve their ability to more actively reach the poorest people with financial services.

Contributions to human asset formation under IFAD-funded projects have come from two sources: first, the direct capacity-building that has resulted from information and knowledge brought to project beneficiaries through technical expertise. This has been particularly effective when such services are determined by demand and paid for by the rural poor themselves. Second, indirect contributions through people's empowerment resulted in greater independence and self-respect. In some Indian projects, this has led to the recognition of the importance of educating girls, and has thus added impetus to human asset formation in a traditionally neglected area.

IMF

In September 1999 the IMF and the World Bank launched the PRSP approach giving countries the ability to develop their own comprehensive strategy for growth and poverty reduction based on a broad participatory process that involves civil society as well as development partners.

The IMF also established the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility in 1999 to make growth and poverty reduction more central to its lending operations in low-income member countries. The key features of PRGF supported programs call for broad participation and greater country ownership, budgets that are more pro-poor and pro-growth, flexibility in the design of fiscal targets, selective structural conditionality, emphasis on measures to improve public resource management and accountability and a greater use of social impact analysis of key elements of the programs, particularly those relating to structural reforms.

In the area of social protection there are three principal ways in which the IMF is sharing its expertise: policy advice, technical assistance, and research. IMF-supported programs have paid increasing attention to social protection issues, with a view to ensuring that

outlays for social safety nets protecting the poor are incorporated into the budget. The IMF is also disseminating good practices through on-going research on the fiscal implications of social protection systems.

UNDP
UNDP has played a leading role in discussions with other development actors to strengthen linkages between the MDGs and poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), resulting in a joint statement between UNDG, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the relationship between the two instruments and their respective roles. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) represents an area of strategic importance to programme countries and one of the core priorities for UNDP's global practices — poverty reduction for human development. To this end, UNDP has become increasingly engaged in supporting the PRSP process in response to requests from programme countries. A Poverty Reduction Strategy is being planned, prepared or reviewed in more than 70 of the world's poorest countries. The advocacy work of UNDP has long been identified with the Human Development Report. This has been complemented by regional and national human development reports, now widely recognized for their contribution to the debate on a multitude of development issues. The Arab Human Development Reports 2002 and 2003 have generated public policy debate across the region and beyond, in particular focusing on social and economic challenges for the region in terms of reaching the MDGs.

UNESCO
UNESCO's Strategy for the "Eradication of Poverty, Especially Extreme Poverty" is implemented through an integrated approach, and involving all the programs of the Organization. Stress is put on the identification of specific entry points for the Organization's contribution and action bearing in mind also various plans and frameworks for action, such as the Dakar Framework for Action, the Stockholm Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, the Budapest Conference on Science, and the Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace. The potential of collaboration with various partners inside and outside the United Nations system is a key feature for all the activities.

UNESCO is focusing on three major, interrelated strategic objectives:
1. To contribute to a broadening of the focus of international and national poverty reduction strategies through the introduction and mainstreaming of education, culture, the sciences and communication;
2. To support the establishment of effective linkages between national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development frameworks, focusing on UNESCO's areas of competence. Furthermore, to help mobilize social capital by building capacities and institutions, with a view to enabling the poor to enjoy their rights;
3. To contribute to an enabling national policy framework and environment for empowerment, participatory approaches and livelihood generation.

A series of approximately twenty poverty Cross-Cutting Theme (CCT) pilot projects were adopted as one approach to programme implementation on an intersectoral basis so

as to maximize UNESCO's special multi-disciplinary resources and expertise. The projects span issues ranging from ecotourism and indigenous knowledge to human trafficking and improving community healthcare access for the poor.

With the assistance of guidelines being developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, projects and the policy lessons being derived from them are analyzed in terms of the human rights issues they address. Currently, eleven human rights issues are included in the programme ranging from the right to food, housing and shelter to the right to cultural identity, peace and security and access to justice. Through a programme of coordination, training and development, UNESCO helped to improve the policy development and advocacy aspects of these projects and improved coordination with efforts underway by other UN agencies.

UNFPA

Poverty reduction is central to the work of UNFPA as population dynamics and structure, reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are closely linked and associated with poverty reduction. The UNFPA is actively involved in meeting the large unmet need for reproductive health services, ensuring the fulfillment of basic human rights, including reproductive rights and sexual health, supporting education for all, especially for girls, and promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. UNFPA supports voluntary family planning programmes that help couples plan the size of their families, protect the health of mothers and their children, enhance family well-being and increase men's participation in family planning and reproductive health decisions. In addition, UNFPA helps countries take the necessary strategic action to ensure availability and choice of contraceptive commodities

Policy formulation for poverty reduction is strongly dependent on the availability of good, reliable and timely data. UNFPA, together with other partners, has championed world wide support for population and housing censuses for over 30 years. In addition, UNFPA has provided technical support to national governments on data collection and utilization. For the first time, UNFPA compiled population data in a publication entitled *Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health: Policy Development and Indicators 2003*. The information presents demographic, social and economic indicators describing each country's population and reproductive health strategies, policies and progress. Similarly, UNFPA has assisted individual countries in collecting data that links population with other development concerns that enhance their capacity to develop policy.

UN-HABITAT

Urban poverty reduction strategies derive from an understanding of current conditions and trends (e.g., urbanization, globalisation, the growth of slums and the gross inequities in urban life) and from the norms and principles that guide the United Nations response to these conditions. These norms and principles include, among others, sustainable urban development, adequate shelter for all, improvement in the lives of slum dwellers, access to safe water and sanitation, social inclusion, environmental protection and to safeguard human rights. With experience and understanding also comes the recognition that urban and shelter finance mechanisms are essential to poverty reduction and, also, that very

little may be achieved without collaborative efforts as expressed in partnerships. With these imperatives in mind and with a sharper focus on urban poverty and in particular, on slums as the most visible manifestation of urban poverty within the overall urbanization process, the main elements of UN-HABITAT's strategic vision are:

1. *Knowledge management and reporting*, expanding the global understanding of urban development, shelter and poverty, and tracking progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda; UN-HABITAT has developed the Global Urban Observatory to focus on building local capacity to select, collect, manage, and apply indicators and other information in policy analysis.
2. *Advocacy of norms* for sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction, carried forward through two global campaigns and a number of global programmes; The Global Campaign on Secure Tenure spearheads a global shelter strategy that promotes the rights and interests of the poor and that recognizes that the vast majority of their shelter is provided by the urban poor themselves. The Global Campaign on Urban Governance promotes accountable and transparent urban governance.
3. *Technical cooperation* in linking norms and campaign/programme goals to urban poverty reduction activities on the ground, with over 150 ongoing projects and about 50 pipeline projects in 61 developing and transition countries in addition to substantive advisory services for project formulation and development.
4. *Innovative financing for urbanization* and specific shelter needs of the urban poor; Managing financing and credit issues that are essential ingredients in any recipe for poverty reduction and sustainable urbanization. UN-HABITAT will thus seek out and develop mechanisms to mobilize domestic savings and capital, in order to improve the availability of affordable housing, decent shelter and infrastructure in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. This will provide a key link between financing institutions and the normative and technical cooperation activities of UN-HABITAT.
5. *Strategic partnerships* to leverage resources and coordinate international programme activities that work toward similar ends. Among the most notable partnerships are those with the Cities Alliance, UNDP, regional development banks, the private sector, and the Partnership Programme on multi-year funding by donors.

WORLD BANK
In September 1999, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed that nationally-owned participatory poverty reduction strategies should provide the basis for all Bank and IMF concessional lending. For low-income countries, their poverty reduction strategies (PRSs) are the vehicle through which country policies, programs and resource requirements are linked to the country's development goals. The PRS approach also provides a framework to make operational the responsibilities and accountabilities—for low-income countries as well as their development partners—agreed in the Monterrey Consensus.

In 2000, the World Bank published the study *Voices of the Poor*. The study was based on an unprecedented effort to gather the views, experiences, and aspirations of more than 60,000 poor men and women from 60 countries. The work was undertaken as background for the 2000/01 World Development Report (WDR) *Attacking Poverty*. Using participatory and qualitative research methods, the study presents directly, through poor people's own voices, the realities of their lives. What the study showed starkly is that poverty has to do with much more than income. Within this multidimensionality of poverty, aspects of social development resonated loudly, including social fragmentation and declining social cohesion, gender inequality, exclusion, accountability of institutions and service providers, and security. For the Bank, the study validated the approach to socially sustainable development embedded in the Copenhagen Commitments, as well as the need to continue to address these dimensions in its development efforts.

While elements of social protection have always been present in Bank activities, economic developments during the 1990s—including the difficulties faced by the transition economies of Eastern Europe and the financial crises in East Asia and other regions—highlighted the need to strengthen social safety nets, including the provision of financially viable pension systems to protect the aged. As a result, Bank lending for social protection and risk management has increased nearly six-fold since 1992, accounting for 12% of total bank lending in fiscal 2003.

The 2004 WDR *Making Services Work for Poor People*, shows that services can be improved by strengthening the relationships of accountability between clients, providers and policy makers. It focuses on putting poor people at the centre of service provision. This inevitably involves examining carefully public sector institutions and how and they deliver, finance, and regulate such services

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
The agency's role in promoting social development has involved strengthening its cooperation with national governments and other development assistance agencies in widening the scope of collaboration on food-based programmes to achieve food security. The role of food-based safety nets is being expanded beyond emergencies to provision of social safety nets in both recovery periods and as a proven tool for development.

The two common safety-net transfers that WFP supports include the Supplementary Feeding Programmes, and Food-for-Work (FFW) & Food-for-Assets (FFA) programmes. These programmes are implemented in a context of a hunger and poverty reduction strategy, comprising initiatives for expanded access to social services to the poor and for labour income growth.

To increase its effectiveness, WFP is committed to strengthening partnerships at the country level by ensuring full WFP participation in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) as well as in the formulation and implementation of national poverty and hunger reduction strategies. WFP established a Development Policy and PRSPs Support Unit in its headquarters to specifically provide technical guidance, advice

and support to Country Offices on increased integration of its activities into national poverty reduction strategies through enhanced partnerships.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
The WHO has used the MDGs as a framework to address poverty reduction issues. The WHO's work towards this commitment includes:
- *Normative and technical work,* which supports the building of health systems and the delivery of health services especially for the poor.
- Working with other United Nations agencies to track progress and measure achievements, with an emphasis on equity indicators.
- Strengthening *technical collaboration with countries* to help them bring measurable health improvements especially among the poor and marginalized groups.
- Global and regional *advocacy* work to push developed countries to deliver on Goal 8 of the MDGs, i.e. providing higher levels of aid for health and delivering those resources in a more effective way.
- Generate evidence on the link between poverty and health to convince policy-makers that interventions to improve health are key to reducing poverty.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA
ECA-Southern Africa (ECA-SA) has reported that food security, a key component of the poverty reduction strategies has been given significant attention in the sub-region. Activities implemented include the organization of a Symposium on Food Security in South Africa; organization of an Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on Nexus Issues of Population, Food Security and Environment in Southern Africa, 7-10 September 1998, and another on Land Tenure Systems and Sustainable Development in Southern Africa, 1-3 October 2003, in Lusaka, Zambia. Reports to Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) were prepared on food security and sustainable development (environment, population and agriculture) in Southern Africa (2001); on the Status of food security and sustainable development in Southern Africa (2003) and on Sustainable Development in Southern Africa (2004). Other activities included the ECA-SA Development Bulletin Issue No. 10, December 2001, which was entirely devoted to sustainable development.

The Sub Regional Office in West Africa (SRO-WA) actively participated in a workshop on the development of a regional strategy to fight poverty in West Africa organised under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the World Bank in November 2003 in Accra, Ghana. Among the recommendations of the workshop is the need for the countries to maintain social peace which is favourable to economic stability and the improvement of the mechanism controlling the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP).

ECE

The ECE undertook several activities on the issue of poverty reduction in the region. In particular, a study focused on poverty in Eastern Europe and the CIS was published in the Economic Survey of Europe 2004. In October 2003, the ECE organized a seminar on income disparity and poverty reduction in the region. The findings presented at the seminar showed that income disparity was widespread and that the most worrying trends in terms of poverty can be observed in countries of South East Europe and CIS countries which are marked by high unemployment, falling real income, degradation of the health situation, rising child malnutrition, growing threat of HIV/AIDS, deteriorating educational status and sharp decline in the scope and level of social protection schemes. In order to address this situation, the seminar concluded that there is a need to develop a policy mix guided by a balanced and gradual approach to economic and social reforms in order to improve the efficiency of the economy while containing the social costs of the transition process.

Policy makers have begun to acknowledge that there is a need for a renewed and increased role of government in helping the poor and vulnerable to meet their housing needs. In this context the ECE Committee on Human Settlements is continuously trying to assist countries in their efforts to address the housing concerns of the socially vulnerable. In countries with economies in transition, there is in particular a need to deal with the consequences of mass housing privatization, a result of which are complex mixtures of public and private ownership, owner-occupied and rental dwellings under one roof. To that end the ECE prepared set guidelines on condominium ownership to provide specific guidance on how to manage such residential estates addressing the current deficiencies in management of the privatized housing stock and providing a comprehensive overview over actions needed by central and local authorities.

The ECE guidelines on social housing address the institutional, legal and economic frameworks for social housing as well as experience with social housing design and analyze the role of social housing policies for society at large. In particular they aim at extending encompassing and well-researched information on the different instruments available for the financing and provision of social housing.

ESCAP

ESCAP has reported that most countries in the region have developed their own national poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Several of them have also prepared or are in the process of preparing poverty reduction strategy papers as a framework for poverty reduction. Several Governments have established inter-ministerial coordinating committees to devise and implement coordinated strategic national plans and actions aimed at achieving the social development targets. However, translating poverty reduction strategy papers and other national poverty reduction strategies into effective policies and programmes to tackle the various dimensions of poverty simultaneously with limited resources has become a challenging task for many countries.

While an ESCAP review revealed that some countries in Asia and the Pacific have already achieved remarkable reductions in income poverty and have already achieved the

Millennium Development Goal target on poverty reduction this progress remains fragile and is susceptible to faltering long-term growth, increases in income inequality and external shocks such as the Asian financial crisis.

ECLAC

ECLAC has reported that poverty levels in Latin America in 2002 were 44 per cent, and extreme poverty at 19.4 per cent. Progress has been stalled in the region for a total of five years, since poverty and indigence rates have remained virtually unchanged since 1997. The likelihood of Latin American and Caribbean countries meeting the MDG with respect to hunger in relation to undernourishment is not encouraging; it is estimated that 9 out of 22 countries in the region will fail to reach the target of halving undernourishment. The forecast is brighter with regard to the reduction of child malnutrition, although it should be noted that this is perhaps the most extreme manifestation of hunger, at least in terms of its contribution the intergenerational transmission of this scourge. Out of 22 countries analysed, 19 should be able to meet the target. This situation underscores the fact that international assistance should give priority to countries with the highest levels of poverty and undernourishment; such aid should be incorporated into public policies that cover the essential components of a national food policy. In addition to guaranteeing that the whole population has access to food, such a national policy should guarantee that the countries' food supplies are sufficient, stable, autonomous and sustainable.

The Latin American and Caribbean region has the highest level of inequality in the entire world. One of the traits that make Latin America's poor income distribution especially conspicuous at the international level is the high percentage of resources concentrated in the richest 10% of households. Data indicates that Latin America is a region with high levels of income concentration and that those levels are increasing. Improving its income distribution is therefore an ethical imperative that would, in addition, help the region achieve higher growth rates and reduce poverty.

One crucial aspect of the inequity characteristic of the region is the fact that inequality of access to wellbeing is largely determined by the nature of people's households of origin. The negative impact on opportunities for attaining well-being exerted by an array of factors (low household income, the parents' low level of education, lack of access to basic services, etc.) is highly influential during the initial stages of people's lives and – early on and sometimes irreversibly– limits their chances of achieving a state of well-being. Perhaps the clearest example of such a factor is chronic malnutrition, which affects, on average, one out of every five children in the region and is associated with households whose members are living in extreme poverty. Poverty and inequality are thus transmitted from one generation to the next. Consequently, in addition to being integrated, resource-efficient and effective in terms of their stated objectives, public policies should give preference to measures that tend to inhibit the mechanisms of the intergenerational transmission of inequalities and avert the worst of their effects in the early stages of the life cycle.

ESCWA

As a leading regional organization that initiates work on poverty alleviation in the region, ESCWA's work to combat poverty began in 1995 and progressed in three phases. The first phase was characterized by a number of technical studies on the measurement, characteristics and determinants of poverty. The second phase included the evaluation of policy measures adopted by ESCWA member states. The third phase was dedicated to develop the tools that can help to alleviate and eradicate poverty, such as microcredit, social funds and community development. ESCWA has also been focusing on the impact of microcredit activities at the beneficiary level.

In order to lay the ground for future work in formulating policies and strategies to eradicate poverty in the ESCWA region, a meeting on Improving Standards of Living in the Arab Mashreq Countries was convened in Cairo during November 1997. As recommended at the meeting, work concentrated on policies required to alleviate poverty. The issues of poverty and youth and the role of income generating activities in eradicating poverty and improving the standards of living in local communities were also investigated. The third stage (2000-2001 biennium) was devoted to proposals of operational mechanisms aimed at eradicating poverty in the region. Work concentrated on three major tools for poverty eradication mainly: social funds, micro-credit lending and community development.

Furthermore, in 2002, ESCWA initiated a field project aimed at coping with urban poverty. This project links with the global campaigns on good urban governance and on security of tenure. It brings the two campaigns together at the regional level through workshops and expert meetings, city consultation and advocacy media campaigns. The outcome of this project was the adoption of a regional declaration on "Equity for all in the Arab city" as well as national declarations and commitments.

Lastly, ESCWA succeeded in carrying out multi-dimensional normative activities, which focused on three broad dimensions: poverty alleviation, political participation and gender roles in the family. These activities aimed at raising awareness on gender issues and introducing a gender perspective into programmes and activities. Field surveys were undertaken to study the extent of the feminization of poverty on female heads of households and means of alleviating poverty. Therefore, projects were formulated for microfinance facilities and micro-credits in order to break the chain of poverty, empower women and encourage self-reliance.

COMMITMENT 3: FULL EMPLOYMENT

We commit ourselves to promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and to enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.

The twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Geneva, 2000) emphasised that employment promotion needed to be placed at the centre of socio-economic development, and this has been further stressed by UN agencies and regional commissions five years later. A national policy dialogue is encouraged for the development of international labour standards. Of particular concern is freedom from discrimination, forced labour, child labour, and unsafe working conditions.

It is evident that globalisation has brought radical changes to the socio-economic environment. While there are many who have benefited from globalisation there are others who have sunk deeper into poverty. This requires a strengthening of the international commitment to the goal of promoting full and productive employment. Support for the creation of small and medium sized enterprises is also needed and improvement in the investment climate is critical to the expansion of employment opportunities and productivity of resources.

ILO

In looking at the contributions of the ILO to meeting the ten commitments, there are three main areas of focus. The first concerns universalizing respect for fundamental principles and rights at work emphasizing freedom of association, freedom from discrimination, freedom from forced labour and freedom from child labour. Within the ILO, and in particular building on the work of its newly formed Working Party on the Social Dimensions of the Liberalisation of International Trade, new instruments and programs were developed to pursue these goals. The 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work provided a powerful reaffirmation of the universality of these rights, seen as a social floor for the global economy, and an instrument for their promotion. The existing instruments to deal with child labour were reinforced by the unanimous adoption by the International Labour Conference in 1999 of a new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182), which was very rapidly ratified by a large majority of member States (150 ratifications by 1 November 2004).

The second domain of expanded action concerned employment. The Social Summit called for broader, more integrated action to promote employment in national development strategy. This rapidly gave rise to a series of Comprehensive Employment Policy Reviews, starting in 1996, which analysed the different dimensions of the employment problem in a number of countries and suggested coherent strategies for employment promotion in each. These reviews demonstrated that there was no universal

employment strategy and called for in-depth analysis of the nature of the problem in each country situation and identification of the policy instruments that could tackle it.

The third domain involved the integration of these two dimensions of action – rights at work and employment – along with social protection and the powerful mechanisms of social dialogue that the ILO had at its disposal, into a consolidated goal of decent work for all women and men. The goal of decent work was grounded in the creation of productive employment, but it was also an expression of the aspirations of people for participation, voice and security. It therefore encompassed all three of the domains highlighted at the Social Summit.

By the time of the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000, it was clear that progress towards the goals of the Social Summit had been slow and vulnerabilities of individual nations to the contagion effects of increasingly globalised financial markets were revealed. The Millennium Declaration took a different approach providing specific targets for countries and the global community to achieve, creating a strong foundation for subsequent progress. However, according to the ILO, when set against the challenges posed by the Social Summit the strategy seemed incomplete. For poverty reduction goals to be achieved, widespread creation of decent and productive employment was necessary. The ILO has paid particular attention to the calls for action in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Further Initiatives proposed by the Special Session in developing its decent work agenda.

The call for an international employment strategy was reflected in the development of the Global Employment Agenda within the work of the ILO. It created a programme of support to national and international action covering ten major issues, from macroeconomic policies to skill development and trade to entrepreneurship, which was launched at the World Employment Forum in 2001. Comprehensive Employment Strategy Reviews, started under the first phase of follow-up to the Social Summit, were continued and expanded into a programme of comprehensive advice and support to employment policy development at the national level. The Forum called for employment to become an overarching goal, and for global alliances to be built across the multilateral system to promote it.

The first global alliance formed to advance this agenda was the UN Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN). The YEN was created in 2001 and brings together a wide range of partners, beginning with the ILO, the World Bank and United Nations, to link political commitment with country-level action.

The ILO conducted an in-depth analysis of policy for the informal economy by its government, worker and employer constituents at the 2002 International Labour Conference. Strategy for the promotion of decent work needed to recognize the fundamental importance of action in the informal economy, which in many parts of the world accounted for a large and increasing share of employment, often insecure and performed in unacceptable conditions. The Conference debate underlined that the four

components of decent work – employment, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue – were all as important in informal and formal work alike.

Action on social protection has likewise continued around the aim of strengthening policies in favour of economic and social security. A global campaign to universalize social security aims to raise the priority of the extension of social security within the development agenda in as many countries as possible, and to support national and international policy makers in developing strategies to extend coverage.

Responding to the challenges posed by globalisation the ILO's Working Party acknowledged the importance of adequate responses to it if social goals were to be reached and in late 2001 it agreed to the proposal by the ILO's Director-General, Juan Somavia, to establish an independent World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation. The members of the Commission have made a broad set of recommendations calling for an ethical framework for the governance of globalisation, accountability and democracy providing opportunity and inclusion for all. The Commission also called for fair rules for trade, finance and investment, intellectual property, migration and labour standards. It made the case not just for a level playing field but for greater positive action in favour of low-income countries and disadvantaged groups within countries. For decent work to become a global goal, there was a need for greater coherence among multilateral organizations in their global economic, financial and social policies, and stronger institutions to embed social goals in the operation of global production systems.

IMF
The IMF encourages national policy dialogue among different stakeholders, including workers' and employers' organizations. IMF resident representatives and mission teams often meet with representatives of labour organizations to discuss their views on social issues. These meetings also provide an opportunity to explain the nature and rationale for IMF policy advice. IMF staff and management also meet regularly with trade union leaders from throughout the world.

UNIDO
UNIDO has enhanced its efforts aimed at productive employment through capacity building. This has included the formulation of industrial policies that provide an enabling framework for the private industrial sector to operate. Support programmes were developed for the promotion of micro, small and medium sized enterprises as the main source of employment creation, innovation, entrepreneurship development and socially sustainable development. Efforts were made to upgrade national technological capabilities and skills through facilitating access to information, new knowledge and modern technology and through assisting their efficient adoption, adaptation and utilization. UNIDO worked to foster an investment and technology promotion climate, and for enhancement of industrial governance, legal and regulatory framework, knowledge and physical infrastructure.

Also included was the collaboration of establishments of a range of business support institutions and organizations for providing collective and targeted services for SMEs and other enterprises in traditional sectors and more knowledge intensive sectors. Advanced quality management techniques were introduced to enhance the ability of firms in developing countries to conform to international standards and to achieve more rapid and environmentally sustainable productivity increases. UNIDO is also supporting rural entrepreneurship development through designing programmes to support micro and small enterprises, strengthening affordable and effective business development services in rural areas, and, through stimulating micro finance. The building of public-private partnerships at national, regional and local levels is encouraged to enable participation of concerned stakeholders in sharing information, designing strategies and formulating industrial policies and programmes.

WORLD BANK
The World Bank has reported that the need for labour intensive growth, coupled with investments in agriculture and human capital, was a core theme of the 1990 World Development Report, a key lesson emerging from the rapid growth and poverty reduction in East Asia, and again underscored in the 2000/01 WDR with its emphasis on expanding opportunities for the poor. Improving the investment climate is essential for expanding employment and income opportunities for the poor and for improving the productivity of their resources. Bank lending to support the private sector and improve investment climates averaged $2.4 billion annually over 1995-02. Direct lending and investments in private sector ventures by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Bank's private sector arm, peaked at $2.3 billion in 2003. The 2005 WDR, under preparation, *Improving the Investment Climate for Growth and Poverty Reduction*, looks at what governments can do to create better investment climates to benefit society at large. In addition, the now annual World Bank/IFC reports *Doing Business* are proving a powerful tool for opening and guiding policy dialogue on needed reforms to attract higher levels of domestic and international investments, facilitate entry into the formal economy, and expand job opportunities—all crucial to attainment of economic and social development objectives. The 2006 WDR, *Equity and Development*, will focus on inequality and ways in which it can be reduced while benefiting economic efficiency and growth.

Working conditions and labour market issues were the focus of the 1995 WDR, *Workers in an Integrating World*. The Bank has since undertaken analysis to better understand the economic effects of freedom of association and collective bargaining, labour market discrimination, and child labour and the links to poverty reduction. The Bank is also actively involved in an international dialogue on core labour standards with unions, employers, governments, and other stakeholders.

The Bank has launched a research programme on the development impact of migration targeting five areas: remittances; brain drain/gain/circulation; temporary movement of persons; trade, foreign direct investment and migration; and demographic disequilibria, skills gaps and social protection. The results will be widely disseminated and are expected to better inform migration policy in all countries. The Bank is also participating

in the Global Commission on International Migration, in which the Senior Advisor to the Bank's President serves as co-chair.

WHO
The WHO has, within the framework of the Global Strategy for Occupational Health for All, been working on strengthening occupational health at global, regional and national levels. The 2002 World Health Report included the estimates of the global burden of disease due to the exposure to selected risk factors. Guides to estimate the National occupational health burden have been developed, and models for the assessment of economic benefit for companies of making the workplace safer and healthier are being finalized.

Since improving health and safety at work is a multi-stakeholder activity, WHO has actively promoted collaboration with ILO and other actors. The WHO/ILO African Joint Effort on Occupational Health is one example and provides a model for cooperation in the countries and other Regions. National profiles and action plans on occupational health have been supported, and practical tools have been developed to eliminate hazards in the workplace. WHO is currently developing the framework for the delivery of basic occupational health services (with a strong focus on prevention), for those workers most in need, particularly workers in the informal economy. Additionally, WHO is, as part of a global partnership, working towards the elimination of hazardous child labour. WHO has mobilized a Network of 70 Collaborating Centres and organized them into task forces. The centres are carrying out activities within a global workplan, thus supporting the accomplishment of the WHO priorities.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECE
The ECE reports that although at varying degrees, unemployment is a concern for all countries of the ECE region. In 2002, the Commission addressed the issue of labour market challenges in the ECE region, focusing on: unemployment in western Europe and the transition economies; increasing the size and the quality of the domestic labour force; is immigration a solution to labour market problems? The seminar emphasized the importance of human capital for the absorptive capacity and international competitiveness of an economy. The discussion concluded that better labour market performance in countries is influenced by the initial conditions, institutional frameworks and the mix of economic and social policies.

In order to address employment problems related to the restructuring of SOEs in the CIS countries, the ECE in co-operation with the ILO organized a regional forum on "social aspects and financing of industrial restructuring" in Moscow. The forum discussed the issues of socially responsible restructuring, including the ways and means of maintaining employment and alleviating the hardships of laid-off workers during its course.

ESCAP
The commission has stated that the post-1995 developments in the Asian and Pacific region have been shaped by an accelerated process of globalisation and market-oriented

reforms in most countries, and by the Asian financial crisis. It is clear that the developments since 1995 constitute very serious setbacks to progress towards full employment in virtually the whole of the Asian and Pacific region. In both transition economies and South Asian countries, economic reforms have exposed problems of labour redundancy, carried over from the past, which threaten to increase levels of open unemployment. Given the limited opportunities for employment at home, there are a very large number of people working abroad.

The participation of women in the labour force was universally lower than that of men. At the same time, women predominate in those categories of the labour force that are not officially recorded in most countries, for example subsistence agriculture. Another noticeable trend has been that of the growing international mobility of women workers. .

According to UNESCAP's *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2004,* employment performance in the region did not improve in several countries in 2003 despite a pickup in economic growth after a two-year slowdown following the financial crisis. A comparison between youth and adult unemployment in the East Asia sub-region shows an unsettling picture. In 2003, youth unemployment was at 7.0 per cent, over twice as high as overall unemployment. Youth unemployment is higher among men than among women by 2.3 percentage points.

As for South-East Asia, even after a sharp increase in unemployment during the past five years, the unemployment rate remains comparably low for the region, at 6.3 per cent in 2003. Once again, however, the unemployment rates only shed light on part of the picture. In some economies, notably Indonesia and the Philippines, underemployment remains a serious concern and therefore the relative rate of working poor remains high.

Slowing labour force growth will take some pressure off South-East Asian and Pacific labour markets. Labour force growth rates are expected to slow down to 1.8 per cent annually between 2003 and 2015, compared with 2.4 per cent annually in the past 10 years. Nevertheless, between 2003 and 2015, over 5 million people will enter the region's labour market each year. This is nearly the same as in the 1990s, when the region did well in terms of reducing the number of working poor. Even if success in reducing the working poor rate is to be repeated, the region needs to create new employment opportunities to avoid stagnation in unemployment rates in the future.

Female unemployment rates are generally higher than male unemployment rates in South Asia, a particularly worrying trend in countries where labour force participation rates are already low for women. Women in these economies have limited employment opportunities. In addition, if they are employed they generally earn far less than their male counterparts.

In Central Asia, the labour markets have been strongly affected by the adjustment process from centrally planned to market-oriented economies. Owing to the deep transitional crisis and subsequent large structural changes in their economies, the labour markets in

Central Asia have been in a state of flux. High unemployment is a primary concern and large numbers of workers are being excluded from the formal economy.

ESCWA

Realizing the importance of adopting appropriate policy responses to combat the challenges of globalisation at the national level and to ensure productive employment for new entrants into the labour markets, ESCWA published a set of technical studies entitled *Globalisation and Labour Markets in the ESCWA Region*, focusing the attention of policy makers on the implications of the globalisation process on the socio-economic situation in the region and, in particular, the future of labour markets. The studies proposed a set of measures to overcome unemployment and underemployment of the labour force, especially youth and new entrants into the labour force. The follow up to the study, *Responding to Globalisation: Skill-formation linked to Unemployment Reduction Policies,* was published in 2003. The report questions the reasons behind this dilemma and proposes relevant solutions. It also profiles the quality of education in the region and proposes means to improve the standards of its labour force skills to match those of the 21st century.

In addition to the project on local community development that aims at creating employment opportunities among the rural population, especially youth and women, ESCWA is implementing a project related to promoting new technologies for employment and poverty alleviation for member countries. This project is implemented as part of the ESCWA initiative on Technology, Employment and Poverty Alleviation, within the Regional Agenda for Action.

In assessing ESCWA at the macro level, ESCWA countries are starting to initiate policies and programmes to absorb the unemployed, especially new entrants into the labour markets. Active labour market programmes include training, development of appropriate skills, job search assistance and support for start- up of small and medium enterprises. At the micro level, the community development approach is spreading through the training programmes for Community Development workers.

COMMITMENT 4: SOCIAL INTEGRATION

We commit ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.

> The empowerment and participation of marginalized and disadvantaged social groups in all aspects of social life is vital in promoting social cohesion. UN agencies and regional commissions have incorporated social integration themes into their operations. They are working to ensure that all persons are made aware of their rights to a secure and dignified existence while partnerships and networks are being formed with the goal of raising awareness to combat racism, discrimination and xenophobia. In the case of indigenous peoples, assistance is necessary for capacity building to increase self-reliance.

IFAD

IFAD's efforts have focused on the empowerment of marginalized peoples and their organizations in order to raise their voice in decision-making and contribute to social integration in particular with regard to indigenous groups and minorities, grass-roots democracy and institutional development.

IFAD has focused on developing region-specific strategies, and in Latin America and most of Asia the Fund has specifically focused on indigenous peoples as beneficiaries of its interventions not only because of their poverty and need for social justice but also because of their untapped potential. A review of investments supported by the Fund since its inception indicates that total loan funds allocated up to the end of 2003 in support of indigenous peoples in Latin America and Asia amounted to USD 875 million or roughly 20% of total loan funds extended in those regions. IFAD has addressed issues of crucial importance to indigenous peoples, such as securing their access to their land. IFAD supported projects have sought to empower them through capacity-building and participation; valuing and revitalizing indigenous knowledge and culture; promoting intercultural awareness; supporting bilingual and cross-cultural education; enhancing indigenous identity and self-esteem; promoting indigenous women's capacity for strengthening indigenous people's institutions and fostering apex organizations with a view to building indigenous peoples' coalitions.

IFAD has assisted the poor in capacity building in two very important ways: first, assisting in the development of institutions owned by the poor themselves so that they can directly manage their assets and provide the poor with access to basic services and; and second, promoting mechanisms to influence public and private institutions. The objective is to mobilize not only the individual initiatives of the poor, but also their collective strengths and capacities.

IFAD is increasingly supporting decentralization with the aim of creating public institutions that are more accountable and in direct contact with the private organizations of the rural poor and local agents. In an era of globalisation, many issues critically affecting the lives of the poor are decided not at local levels but at national and international levels. To exercise influence at these higher levels, the rural poor must have more opportunities to participate in far broader processes.

UNESCO

UNESCO has been addressing the needs of marginalized and disadvantaged groups with a view to supporting their empowerment and participation in all aspects of social life. The *InfoYouth* programme, for example, focuses on young persons, particularly those who are disadvantaged, live in conflict zones, rural and impoverished areas. The programme has been providing counselling, ICT and job-skills training, conflict-resolution strategies as well as contributing to awareness raising and behavioural change among youth in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It has also supported efforts to develop youth oriented policies, and the inclusion of youth in the decision-making process as well as to foster regional and international co-operation among youth bodies. Other actions aim at de-stigmatizing disability, providing training in ICT for persons with disability, focusing on the needs of women, rural communities and illiterate persons.

The Urban Development Section will concentrate its efforts on developing multidisciplinary research and the enabling capacities needed for urban inhabitants and local and national governments to know "The Right to the City". These rights include: the right to recognition, to respect, to resourcing, to representation and to realisation.

UNESCO has a longstanding experience in the field of Human Rights Education (HRE), a domain in which it has been active since its inception in 1945. UNESCO's HRE activities are based on various normative instruments adopted by the Organization and the United Nations. Since 1995, those activities have been placed within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).

UNESCO is working actively in the following areas:
- Development and monitoring of international normative instruments;
- Support to the development of regional and national capacities;
- Advocacy and Networking; and
- Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

"Good practices" in the field of human rights education have been acknowledged through the awarding of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.

In the framework of UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2004/71, which recommends the adoption of a World Programme for Human Rights Education, to be started on 1st January 2005, UNESCO and OHCHR are jointly elaborating the plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme, which will focus on the primary and secondary school systems. The Plan of Action will be submitted to the 2004 UN General Assembly for adoption.

The Organization's future action in HRE will have the following objectives:

1. monitoring of human rights education as part of the right to education in Member States;
2. mainstreaming human rights education into national education systems, in conformity with the principles of universality, indivisibility, interrelation and interdependence of all human rights, taking into account the diversity of cultures, historical developments and the history of education in each country;
3. integration of human rights education in Education For All (EFA) national plans of action and their implementation;
4. building strategic partnerships with United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other civil society associations, research community, parliamentarians, etc. in order to enhance effective implementation and impact of human rights education at international, regional and national levels. National Commissions for UNESCO have an essential role to play in this regard;
5. promotion of existing UNESCO networks and establishment of new ones.

In accordance with the UNESCO Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, UNESCO is establishing the International Coalition of Cities against Racism. It aims at launching initiatives that revitalize action, strengthen networking and mobilize partners in the struggle against racism at the local, regional and international levels.

UNFPA

UNFPA's contribution to the goal of social integration is in large part related to its programs with the elderly, adolescents, migrants and displaced populations. In preparation for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, it organized a roundtable on ageing and poverty and produced a report entitled *Situations and Voices: The Older Poor and Excluded in South Africa and India* (2002). The report confirmed that urbanization, migration, the breakdown of traditional social structures and HIV/AIDS have pushed many older people, especially women, into abject poverty and isolation. Informed by the research undertaken, UNFPA has actively engaged countries to address the needs of the elderly. In collaboration with INIA, and in partnership with 15 countries, UNFPA provided policy makers, programme personnel and educators from developing countries, training in effective ways to address the growing needs of the older poor. In October 2001, in Malta, UNFPA organized a meeting of experts on the ageing poor.

UNFPA is implementing a number of initiatives regarding adolescents and youth, including the development of mechanisms to gather and analyze programme and policy information on the situations within which sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS can be transmitted to and among young people; and the identification and documentation of best practices/guidelines/case studies on how to operationalise adolescent participation in information and education programmes. UNFPA is an active stakeholder in the UN Special Initiative on Girls Education, which links education and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Migration presents complex and interlinked policy challenges for government and the international community. People on the move continue to need reproductive health care, and are often at greater risk of HIV/AIDS. UNFPA helped to strengthen the capacity of countries to formulate migration policies, working through the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) with partners including the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration. Last year UNFPA and IMP, jointly released a publication entitled, *Meeting the Challenges of Migration: Progress Since the ICPD* that builds on previous reporting on migration issues.

The Fund has engaged in activities such as training for reproductive health services in emergency situations for over 90 relief workers and health professionals from more than 30 countries; support for HIV prevention among members of the major United Nations peacekeeping contingents as well as women, refugees and the internally displaced in Congo, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia, among others; and support for national demobilization programmes that reintegrate adolescent ex-combatants into community life.

WORLD BANK
The World Bank's Social Development group promotes social integration and supports efforts to incorporate social development issues in Bank operations. Approaches and tools include social analysis, participation and civic engagement, safeguard policies and compliance on involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cultural property, and Bank-wide initiatives on conflict-affected countries, social capital and culture in development.

In addition to a greater understanding of social dynamics, the Bank's social development agenda focuses on three interrelated themes or approaches: community-driven development and social capital; civic engagement and participation; conflict prevention and reconstruction.

WHO
The World Health Organization in its commitment to social integration has focused on different social groups. For example, as a contribution to the 2002 Second UN World Assembly on Ageing, WHO developed its Active Ageing Policy Framework, which is a road map to help policy makers tackle the public health implications of ageing and to ensure that older people remain healthy with a good quality of life. WHO works towards *Age-Friendly Primary Health Care* and towards integrated responses of health systems to ageing populations.

WHO supports its Member States for the integration of gender and human rights considerations into health policy, legislation and programming. For example, in the area of reproductive health, several materials and tools have been developed to address gender and human rights considerations in sexual and reproductive health, including "Transforming health systems: gender and rights in reproductive health" and a series of trainings held at country level. The WHO's Gender Policy was adopted in 2002 which engages in advocacy and research on violence against women in order to design

interventions to protect the rights and safety of women, as well as generate an appropriate health sector response to this global problem. Additionally, WHO co-convened the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS theme on Violence and HIV/AIDS and in this capacity is launching a Global Campaign to End Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS which will undertake advocacy and research, as well as supporting interventions in communities to integrate Violence Against Women (VAW) and HIV/AIDS programming.

WHO is currently developing a work plan to strengthen its work in the area of health and human rights of indigenous people globally, building on previous work and guidance from WHO's Governing Bodies. WHO and CINE (Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment) have completed the initial draft of *Indigenous Peoples & Participatory Health Research*, a publication which provides information on how research projects can be set up between indigenous people and research institutions.

WHO produced a document in the health and human rights publication series titled "International Migration, Health and Human Rights", which was published in early 2004. The publication addresses the issue of migration and health through a human rights framework, providing an overview of some of the key challenges for policy-makers in addressing the linkages between migration, health and human rights.

WHO provides support to countries in developing and implementing progressive mental health law and provides technical information and training on international human rights standards related to the rights of people with mental disorders.

WHO promotes Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) as a strategy within general community development for rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities and social participation of persons with physical disabilities; holds inter-country workshops and reports on implementation of the UN Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (UNSR); provides active support and joint activities with Disabled People's Organizations; participates in the process related to the United Nations Comprehensive and Integral Convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; and promotes the right to access to appropriate assistive devices in developing and middle income countries.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA
ECA-Southern Africa (ECA-SA) worked with OAU/AU and Help Age International on issues affecting ageing from 1999. Activities included an Expert Meeting in Uganda in 2000 to draft an OAU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing, the OAU/HelpAge Conference on Ageing in Africa held in Kenya December 2001 to refine the Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing in Africa, and to prepare an African input to the International Plan of Action on Ageing, in preparation for the Second United Nations World Assembly on Ageing. The AU Heads of State and Government adopted

the Policy Framework and Action Plan on Ageing in Africa at its meeting in Durban South Africa in July 2002.

ECE
The ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in September 2002 in Berlin (Germany), adopted two main documents – the Berlin Ministerial Declaration: A Society for all Ages in the UNECE Region and the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, both of which address among other things the three main themes of the Copenhagen Summit and commitments two, four and five in particular.

The ECE Secretariat's follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing focuses on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the adopted documents. In cooperation with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna), a first step in this follow-up was the workshop "Sustainable Ageing Societies: Indicators for Effective Policy-Making", which focused on social indicators, including those related to employment and poverty reduction. Future workshops will address other issues related to ageing, including that of social cohesion.

ECLAC
Regarding the issue of equity, the Division for Social Development in ECLAC annually produces and publishes "Social Perspective of Latin America", which systematically dedicates a chapter to analyze information on social equity in a wide sample of countries in the region, and from that data it studies the evolution of the conditions regarding equity or inequity with special emphasis to the measurement by distribution of income. This allows ECLAC to provide updated information and carry out its analysis, both for the follow up to the WSSD and for the Forum's meeting. In the issue there are two areas where relevant information is being produced for the issues of equity and equality. The first refers to changes in the social stratification patterns that took place in the region during the last decade, and the analysis of its causes and direction. The second which is based on household surveys and the last population census is related to the difference in equity and equality between indigenous populations and the rest of the population (in countries such as Chile, Bolivia and Guatemala) and among afro descendent populations and the rest of the population. Studies have also been carried out about intergenerational reproduction of social inequalities, especially through the reproduction of inequalities in educational achievements.

ECLAC has produced two main documents contributing to the activities related to the WSSD on the equity gap in Latin America and the Caribbean (*The Equity Gap, 1997,* and *The Equity Gap: A Second Evaluation, 2000*). The documents include both a detailed diagnosis about the situation of social equity in the region as well as proposals and existing policies to reduce the gap. The issues of poverty, distribution of income, generation of productive employment, social integration and proposals for the achievement of objectives agreed in the WSSD are analyzed in the documents.

ESCAP

The Commission has reported that in the past decade, Governments in the region have formulated and implemented comprehensive social development programmes either sectorally or intersectorally. Some countries revised existing laws and regulations or introduced new legislation to strengthen or upgrade measures for vulnerable groups. Countries in the region also made institutional arrangements and established focal points and coordinating bodies to supervise and monitor governmental and non-governmental social development activities.

Governments defined the target population with respect to each of the areas of social concern within the framework of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (ESCAP, 1998) and established time-bound achievement targets to ensure cost-efficiency and maximum programme impact. In that connection, Governments conducted surveys to collect data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic group and poverty level leading to the establishment of social development information systems in many countries.

ESCWA

In line with global conventions, ESCWA is promoting equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities. Its efforts include promoting community-based rehabilitation, disseminating information, networking and providing training and technical assistance, implementing operational field projects, and convening conferences, meetings and seminars to further opportunities for persons with disabilities in social life and development.

Since 1995, ESCWA has implemented a number of activities that aim to promote social integration of vulnerable groups. Activities included: preparation of relevant studies, and organizing and holding relevant seminars, expert group meetings (EGMs), conferences, and training workshops. Measures also included implementing, in partnership with concerned stake holders, a number of operational field projects and community based rehabilitation (CBR) projects that aimed at strengthening self-reliance of persons with disabilities, upgrading personal capabilities and skills, and promoting ICT applications for the disabled, particularly computer training, internet training, and establishing a specialized website for blind persons in Arab countries. Between 2002 and 2004, ESCWA also organized and implemented three regional conferences and EGMs to launch, promote and adopt the "Arab Decade for People with Disabilities 2004 – 2013"; as well as to support the International Convention on Disability.

Currently, ESCWA is undertaking: (1) A field project on: "Youth NGOs Directory Network in the Arab Region", which serves as a mechanism that aims at reinforcing regional integration, and contributes towards empowering youth NGOs in the Arab region and enabling them to strengthen capacity building; and (2) preparations to convene a forthcoming "Regional Training Seminar on National Youth Policy", which aims to promote the exchange of country experiences on national youth policies; strengthen the capabilities of concerned government officials and leaders of youth organizations in Arab countries.

ESCWA is in the process of researching issues related to the concept and role of the family, the extended family, neighbourhood, tribe in society; characteristics of the Arab family and the integration of roles, relationships and capacities of different members within the family unit; pathologies within the family; an assessment of Arab family programmes from a social policy perspective and empowering the family as a new developmental component in social policy formulation.

COMMITMENT 5: ACHIEVE EQUALITY AND EQUITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

We commit ourselves to promoting full respect for human dignity and to achieving equality and equity between women and men, and to recognizing and enhancing the participation and leadership roles of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life and in development.

> In the commitment to achieving equity and equality between women and men, programmes are being implemented to ensure that the fundamental rights of women are provided for. Awareness and understanding of the socio-cultural and institutional bases of gender inequality is needed by policy-makers and the public in realizing this goal. It must be ensured that gender dimensions are integrated in national, regional and international policies, decision-making, and legislation. In addition, it is crucial to provide women with equal access to knowledge, assets and employment opportunities.

IFAD

The Fund has stressed that rural poverty is deeply rooted in the glaring imbalance between what women do and what they have. Across the developing world, despite their essential economic and care-giving roles, rural women still have significantly less access than men do to knowledge, assets and services – and less voice in public decision-making. These persistent inequalities affect their ability to carry out their critical roles effectively, thus undermining global human and economic growth. IFAD has placed increasing importance on gender equality and women's empowerment, both as objectives in themselves and as instruments for poverty reduction.

Gender concerns have increasingly become important elements of IFAD's poverty-alleviation strategy, and women currently figure as a major target group in almost all IFAD's projects and programmes. The June 2002 *"External Review of the Results and Impact of IFAD operations"* noted success in progress towards gender equality in IFAD-funded projects, as well as in policy dialogue and innovation. Greater continuity between design and implementation will more fully integrate women into mainstream development activities, and promote women's access to productive resources and community management. In this context, in 2003 IFAD's Executive Board approved a Plan of Action 2003-2006 on *"Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in IFAD's Operations"*. With the "Plan of Action (PoA)", IFAD makes an institutional commitment to 25 clearly defined and time-bound actions. In addition to the Gender PoA, the IFAD Rural Enterprise Policy developed in 2004 recognizes that the reduction of poverty in

rural areas is linked to rural women's capacity to engage in rural enterprises. Furthermore, IFAD's Rural Finance Policy issued in 2004 recognizes the key role of rural women to transform rural finance groups into larger, self-reliant savings and credit associations.

IMF
The IMF supported the Beijing Conference on women, and participated in the follow-up conference to Beijing in 2000. It has made progress towards implementing the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action by supporting member countries' efforts to make gender equality a priority. The IMF contributes towards this objective through its efforts in helping countries achieve the MDGs. Three of the eight MDGs are directly related to gender issues. Many countries are now making gender imbalances an explicit focus of their poverty reduction and growth strategies. Reducing gender imbalances in primary and secondary education and improving access of females to health services, especially maternal and reproductive health, have been identified as priorities in their PRSPs by many countries.

UNDP
Gender equality is a core objective of UNDP. The organization has two complementary approaches to achieving gender equality: mainstreaming gender and promoting women's empowerment. In 2002, UNDP renewed its commitment to mainstreaming gender equality into its core priorities with the adoption of a corporate Practice Note on Gender Equality. Accountability has been strengthened with the integration of relevant measures in all service lines and in reporting requirements across the core practices: poverty reduction, democratic governance, HIV/AIDS, energy and environment, crisis prevention and recovery.

At the corporate level, the strategic importance of gender mainstreaming across the organization has been further strengthened in the new Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF) for 2004-2007, which identifies the promotion of gender equality as one of five key drivers of development effectiveness.

UNDP has been piloting more strategic and comprehensive initiatives in support of the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality. All practice areas used more targeted support for the integration of gender dimensions into national policies, programmes and budget processes; enhanced capacities of national women's machineries and made greater use of sex-disaggregated data in policy dialogue and advocacy. UNDP assisted over 40 countries on gender-sensitive budgeting (GSB) initiatives as they incorporated a gender perspective into investment policies, including commitments to poverty reduction and the MDGs. More than one third of UNDP country offices supported the collection of data disaggregated by sex, a major contribution to the development of gender-responsive CCAs, UNDAFs, PRSPs, MDG reports and national human development reports.

UNDP is in a unique position to spearhead efforts that promote gender equality across all the Millennium Development Goals as it leads country and regional reporting and works

closely with the Millenium Project and the Millennium Campaign. In 2003, UNDP initiated a review of MDG reports from a gender perspective and published its findings and recommendations.

UNDP developed a global programme to support the engendering of the MDG efforts at country level with support from DFID, the Governmant of Japan and the UNDP Trust Fund on Poverty. The programme is executed by UNIFEM and started in five pilot countries where best practices and lessons will be captured for knowledge sharing across the UNDP global network.

Democratic governance: UNDP efforts to foster a gender-sensitive approach to democratic governance encompassed legal reform, the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), capacity development of parliamentarians and civil servants, women's human rights and violence against women.

Crisis and post-conflict countries: In Afghanistan, UNDP provided support to build the institutional and human capacities of the Government. The organization has taken systematic steps to mainstream gender in its field manuals and its operations on land mines, disarmament, demobilization and recovery. In post-crisis reconstruction, opportunities exist for a new constitution, new institutions and new laws to protect women's rights.

UNESCO
Commitment five is reflected as the central tenet of UNESCO's gender policy as defined in the Organization's Medium Term Strategy for 2002-2007 and recently developed Gender Mainstreaming Framework for 2002-2007. The Section for Women and Gender Equality of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, as the Organization's central Gender unit, is charged with the responsibility of making sure these commitments are fully taken into account by the Programme Sectors, throughout the programme cycle, from planning to evaluation. In this capacity, the Section organized gender training and developed a Gender Focal Point Training CD-ROM that provides a comprehensive set of resources and tools that can help integrate gender equality concerns into UNESCO's daily work. In support of these initiatives, an online Gender Mainstreaming Resource Center (GMRC) that fosters the broader and better use of UNESCO's experience and expertise in gender within its fields of competence was created.

The Division of Human Rights and Struggle Against Discrimination and its newly created Gender Equality and Development Section (GED) are more specifically addressing these commitments within the context of the functions and mandates of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences. Contributing to this objective, the Sector produced in 1999 a book entitled *Human Rights of Women: A Collection of International and Regional Normative Instruments*. More recently, a special programme for research, advocacy, and capacity building around women's human rights has been established and housed within the GED. The programme seeks to understand the socio-cultural and

institutional bases of gender inequality, with a view to working with partners on ways of overcoming those barriers through appropriate legal and policy changes.

The Women and a Culture of Peace Programme (WCP) was established in 1996, as part of UNESCO's follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to help mainstream a gender perspective on the cross-sectoral project *Towards a Culture of Peace*.

UNESCO attaches high priority to improving girls, young and adult women's right to education with the framework of the achievement of the EFA Goals as well as improving women's access to and use of ICTs. Since women's ability to take advantage of ICTs is dependent on such factors as conductive policies, enabling environment, their access to communication and information facilities as well as increased educational levels, UNESCO supports local initiatives which promote, among other things, women's participation in the building of the knowledge societies.

UNFPA
UNFPA has undertaken a number of activities around the globe to promote incorporation of gender in development processes and to address gender-based violence. With respect to gender-based violence, UNFPA produced and piloted a step-by-step guideline for clinics entitled *A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A Programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers*. The guide focuses on childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. UNFPA developed a programming guide on gender-based violence for health care providers following pilot tests in 10 countries. Increasing attention in many countries to the promotion of these rights has resulted in further changes in policies and laws to protect these rights and empower women, including, inter alia, legislation banning female genital mutilation.

WORLD BANK
Gender equality is a core element of the Bank's strategy to reduce poverty. In September 2001, the Bank adopted a strategy to bring gender equality issues into the mainstream of its country assistance, *Integrating Gender into the World Bank's Work—A Strategy for Action*. The strategy rests on a country-led, country-specific approach, and recommends three basic steps to integrate gender equality issues into Bank operations:
- Conduct periodic assessments of gender-based barriers to economic growth and poverty reduction in each of the Bank's active client countries, through a Country Gender Assessment (CGA);
- Use the assessment findings in country dialogue to identify priority gender-responsive interventions; and
- Integrate gender analysis and gender-responsive interventions into projects in the priority sectors identified in the assessment and agreed to in the country dialogue.

In 2001, the Bank also published a comprehensive policy research report *Engendering Development—Through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources, and Voice*, that is recognized throughout the development community as a major contribution to the understanding of gender and development issues.

Attention to gender in the Bank's core diagnostic analytical work has increased, especially in poverty assessments where over 80% include gender analysis, and in its country assistance strategies. More than 80% of the Bank's country assistance strategies approved in fiscal 2004 proposed actions to address gender issues in at least one sector. Gender issues are also receiving greater attention in Bank reviews of countries' PRSs—in fiscal 2003 and 2004, over one-half of all staff assessments of PRSs provided concrete advice to improve attention to gender inequality and one half recommended further steps in sex-disaggregated data collection and monitoring. Attention to gender issues in project design and supervision also increased.

Over the past 10 years, the Bank has provided $6.3 billion to support girls' education projects. More than two-thirds of Bank lending in health, nutrition and population have included gender-related objectives, with particular emphasis on women's reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Supported by grants from the Governments of Norway and The Netherlands, the Trust Fund for Gender Mainstreaming in the World Bank has backed many innovative activities such as providing for the different needs of men and women in the post-conflict reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of Congo, creating a sex-disaggregated statistical database for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and targeting high-risk male groups in HIV/AIDS prevention projects in Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Senegal.

WFP
The Programme's Gender Policy for 2003-2007 entails enhanced commitments to women ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women in the struggle of fighting hunger and achieving sustainable food security for all. The enhanced commitments to women were established with the aim of achieving the following objectives:
- Meet nutritional requirements of expectant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls and raise their health and nutritional awareness
- Expand activities that enable girls to attend school
- Ensure that women benefit at least equally from the assets created though food-based interventions
- Contribute to women control of food in relief food distribution of household rations
- Ensure that women are equally involved in food distribution committees and other programme-related local bodies
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in programming activities
- Contribute to an environment that acknowledges the important role women play in ensuring household food security and that encourages both women and men to participate in closing the gender gap
- Make progress towards gender equality in staffing of the organization.

A thematic evaluation of WFP's commitments to women in 2002 indicated that although the implementation is still in progress, significant achievements are starting to emerge as the gender mainstreaming process gets more entrenched within the organization and in WFP-supported country activities. WFP field monitoring results are confirming a positive

correlation between women's control of household food resources and increased household food consumption, a fact that has gone to strengthen the position of using food as opposed to cash in making effective safety-net transfers that directly increase household food consumption.

Elsewhere the WFP School Feeding strategy is registering notable success in increasing enrolment rates especially for girls where they are specifically targeted. Currently, almost all WFP assisted projects and programmes being implemented in the 82 countries have a gender aspect or component in them.

WHO
The WHO's Department of Gender, Women and Health has been working on several initiatives that respond to this commitment, including:
- Building a solid evidence base of how sex and gender interact with health in order to better inform programmatic and policy decision-making processes.
- Participation in MDG+5 processes ensuring that targets and indicators are sex disaggregated and ably measure progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Internal and external advocacy on the importance of integrating gender into public health programmes.
- Capacity building activities to increase gender analysis skills amongst public health workers.

The WHO has emphasized that the full respect, protection and fulfillment of women's health rights is critical to improving the human rights of women. Safe motherhood as championed by Making Pregnancy Safer holds as a guiding principle the recognition of the right of all women to go through pregnancy and childbirth safely. Women and newborn's health as a human right is highlighted in the "Making Pregnancy Safer" (MPR) strategy as well as in most of the guidance documents that have been developed since the inception of the initiative. In addition, recent guidance documents developed by MPR go farther in attempting to help countries programme using a gender and rights perspective -- all of which contributes to a clear global message that improvement in women's health particularly is fundamental to broader social change in the status of women.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA
The Commission has reported that in 1998, on its 40th anniversary, through its African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) ECA convened an international conference on the theme "African Women and Economic Development: Investing in Our Future." For the more than one thousand women and men representing African governments, civil society, and private sector, this conference offered the opportunity to discuss African women's past and future contributions to Africa and the world and how to eliminate gender discrimination. According to this recommendation, the ACGD developed a conceptual and analytical framework for integrating a gender perspective and particularly

women's non-market work (unpaid work) into national accounting systems and national budgets.

One of the major outputs of this framework is an Africa-specific Guidebook. This easy reference guide is a compendium of methodologies and tools, which use Time-use surveys (TUS), National Accounts and national budgets as entry points to improve the skills of statisticians, national accountants and policy analysts, in how to engender national planning instruments.

The second major output is a gender-aware macroeconomic model that integrates both market and non-market activities, while distinguishing male and female workers throughout, in order to evaluate impacts of policy reforms on poverty reduction and, on the well-being of men and women in Africa. Therefore, a pilot study has been carried out using a gender-aware Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model applied to South Africa's economy.

ECA-Southern Africa (ECA-SA) provided advisory services to Member States, organized workshops, conferences, and disseminated information on gender issues in order to influence policy makers to take into account gender concerns in socio-economic development policies and programmes. Specifically, the Office prepared reports to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) on the implementation of the Dakar and Global Platforms for Action and Beijing Declaration (in 1998, 2000, and 2004); organized an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting in 2000 on mainstreaming gender and human rights into the SADC HIV/AIDS Framework; organized a ministerial conference to review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms in Southern Africa in April 2004 and published Development Bulletin issues which covered issues on gender; and in 2003 an entire issue was devoted to Gender and Development in Southern Africa since the 1997 SADC Gender Declaration.

ECE
The Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 5), organized by the ECE in January 2000, adopted *inter alia,* a set of commitments focused on the role of women in the economy. These commitments were grouped around four main areas which all have a strong social dimension: (i) eliminating discrimination against women in the labour market; (ii) increasing employment opportunities for women; (iii) promoting gender equality in social protection; and (iv) empowering women through access to and control over resources.

In January 2004, the ECE Regional Symposium on Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies was an opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices at a regional level in the above mentioned areas addressed at the Beijing +5 meeting.

In collaboration with the UNDP Regional Support Centre in Bratislava the ECE Statistics Division finalized in 2002 the ECE Gender Statistics Website. The main focus is on the production, dissemination and use of gender related data. In addition to statistics, this site

elaborates on some of the main gender issues relevant to the UNECE region, and provides examples of policies and other initiatives within that context.

ECLAC
Since inequality is primarily reflected in disparities across geographic areas within a given country, in differences between social strata and in ethnically and gender-based inequalities, it is a key issue to disaggregate these indicators in order to assess the scale of the existing inequalities, see how they may have changed during the 1990s and gauge how much their reduction would contribute to achievement of the targets set for 2015 by or before that year. The Millennium Declaration identifies gender and ethnic issues as cross-cutting concerns, inasmuch as progress in both of these areas is a necessary condition for the achievement of the other goals. Accordingly, special attention must be devoted to social inequalities based on differences between men and women or on racial and ethnic differences.

The Women's Unit in ECLAC has updated data about inequalities by gender. It has additionally provided a detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data, and has proposed policies to overcome them.

ESCWA
The Commission has reported that an area where awareness was raised especially targeting policy-makers is gender and citizenship, where policies and legislation aimed to ensure gender equity and equality. This led to providing advisory services to member States in reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and related technicalities. In addition, media campaigns were launched which included the production of several TV spots on the areas of critical concern for the advancement of women identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. These activities were strengthened by operational activities in four main areas: gender statistics, CEDAW reporting, microfinance for poverty alleviation and using pro-poor technologies, and NGOs networking and forging synergy with governments.

ESCWA adopted a resolution to establish a Committee for Women, as a subsidiary body, and a Centre for Women within its organizational structure to serve as its secretariat. The first session was held in December 2003 as the first regional meeting for the ten-year review of the Beijing Conference. The Centre for Women provides capacity building to national machineries for women and NGOs to monitor developments and introduce gender mainstreaming for gender equality and good governance.

First, there is the reintroduction of the scope for independent judgment in religious matters and adoption of equality as an authoritative standard, which resulted in the drafting of new family laws guaranteeing gender equality in private matters. Second, some Arab states have added new provisions to the criminal law, making some acts of violence against women criminal offences. Third, Arab states have made institutional achievements including the introduction of new ministries responsible for women, human rights and political development.. Fourth, most Arab states have ratified a number of

International instruments including the CEDAW. Fifth, economic prospects are improving for many women in the Arab region, as more employment opportunities as well as micro loans are being made available to women. Finally, women have become more politically active and their presence became more apparent in all sectors of the Arab society including the government sector where women occupy posts as cabinet ministers and serve as presiding magistrates in the judiciary.

COMMITMENT 6: UNIVERSAL AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

We commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions and without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age or disability; respecting and promoting our common and particular cultures; striving to strengthen the role of culture in development; preserving the essential bases of people-centred sustainable development; and contributing to the full development of human resources and to social development. The purpose of these activities is to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration.

Several major initiatives have been undertaken through cooperative efforts by UN agencies and regional commissions to provide access to health care and education for all. The formation of partnerships has improved the potential to expand and improve the quality of education and ensure greater equity of educational opportunities. Financial assistance is being provided along with policy advice and technical support.

To improve the accessibility of health care the management of public sector institutions and their methods of operations must be examined. Guidelines and technical tools are being provided to assist countries in improving their treatment and prevention programs. Concerted efforts are being made to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria through education, treatment and immunisation.

IMF

Considerable attention has been paid to social issues in IMF-supported programs. The IMF has encouraged countries to raise the level of social spending to help foster human development and achieve the MDGs. Accordingly, there has been a shift in the composition of government spending towards the social sectors in countries with IMF-supported programs. Data on education and health care spending in countries with IMF-supported programs over the period 1985–2002 show a significant rise in spending in these two areas. Spending in these sectors has also increased as a share of total government spending which has translated into sizeable increases in real social spending per person, and to broad-based improvements in social indicators for education and health, particularly those associated with the MDGs.

Progress in re-orienting government spending has been particularly marked in programs supported under the PRGF. These programs seek to shift the composition of government spending towards a broad array of expenditures defined as "poverty-reducing" in countries' PRSPs. The definition of such spending is country-specific and has included sectors such as primary education, basic health care, roads, rural development, agriculture, judicial systems, and anti-corruption efforts. Recent data indicate that poverty-reducing spending has increased in countries with PRGF-supported programs, both as a share of GDP as well as of total government spending Spending on poverty reducing programs in countries that have benefited from debt relief under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative is now almost three times the amount spent on debt service payments Poverty-reducing spending is projected to increase in countries that are implementing their PRSPs and that are on track with economic reform programs..

UNAIDS
The effect of HIV/AIDS on social development is devastating not only because of its impact on poverty and income inequality, but also due to the threats it poses for the development of public health in general, and for expanding educational enrolment. Addressing HIV/AIDS is therefore an important component of poverty eradication, and a key requisite when working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Extraordinary multisectoral responses in affected countries are needed more urgently than ever.

UNAIDS and its cosponsors have advocated the following specific activities in support of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD):
- Mainstreaming AIDS education into basic education and into non-formal education programmes;
- Strengthening services for sexual and reproductive health and life skills, especially for young people;
- Ensuring that migrant populations have access to basic health and education services;
- Promoting further study of the impact of AIDS on national development; and
- Strengthening national legislation which protects against HIV-related discrimination.

UNAIDS has promoted several approaches to challenge HIV-related discrimination and spearhead public action which has included continuing advocacy and broad based action to tackle the gender, racial and sexual inequalities and stereotypes upon which AIDS-related stigma and discrimination feed; empowerment of people living with, and affected by, HIV; provide comprehensive care and services; ensure legal protection for people living with HIV; ensure that codes of ethics and professional conduct for health-care services are in place and enforced; and ensure greater access to treatment drugs. In addition, the workplace provides an excellent opportunity to establish a supportive environment for those living with HIV. The ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work provides basic principles to guide policy development, as well as guidelines for practical programming.

At the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2003 three core principles were adopted for concerted country-level action:

- One agreed AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners;
- One National AIDS Coordinating Authority with a broad-based multisectoral mandate;
- One agreed country-level Monitoring and Evaluation system.

In order for the AIDS response to be effective, it has to benefit those who are most vulnerable, particularly women and young people. A new initiative led by UNAIDS, "the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS", is being implemented for the UN system and other partners to coordinate their support for action. The Global Coalition is building up innovative partnerships with networks of HIV-positive women and groups that work with men and boys in an effort to reduce the impact of AIDS on women's lives at global, regional and country levels

UNAIDS and WHO, along with other key partners e.g. the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, have been working to scale-up HIV care and treatment programs for developing countries. The '3 by 5' initiative was launched in 2003 which aims to reach 3 million people with anti retroviral (ARV) treatment by the end of 2005, towards a goal of universal access.

The Country Response Information System (CRIS) is the first global mechanism to track national responses according to standard indicators. CRIS is vital in the implementation of the WSSD commitments, since it plays a significant role in supporting management of national AIDS information. UNAIDS has spearheaded efforts to supply countries with the CRIS user-friendly database management tool designed to strengthen the management of strategic information and its analysis at the country level. The Global AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Support Team (GAMET) housed at the World Bank, assists in harmonising diverse efforts in building monitoring and evaluation capacity in developing countries.

UNESCO
As the lead agency for United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), UNESCO, in close consultation with UN agencies and its Member States, prepared the International Plan of Action, which was adopted at the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly. In monitoring the activities undertaken, UNESCO prepared a report entitled "The United Nations Literacy Decade: The First Year – The 2003 Progress Report." For the advocacy of literacy, UNESCO has also undertaken several other important activities including the formulation of UNLD Resource Persons Teams in respective regions to provide advise for advancing UNLD; granting of literacy prizes; and in 2003, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) launched the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) in cooperation with a number of stakeholders to test a methodology to measure literacy skills directly to provide participating countries with data of high quality. UNESCO is

also playing an active role in the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI), and has undertaken several related activities.

UNESCO has contributed to achieving universal primary education through its support to Member States by expanding and improving primary education. Its action has focused on the following five areas within the frameworks of MDG and EFA:
- Technical support to selected Member States in reform and policy development;
- Capacity-building of educational personnel;
- Development of learning materials;
- Advocacy and networking with partners;
- Global consolidation and sharing of knowledge on primary education.

The UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE) organized a 90-nation conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in September, 2003. Called CONFINTEA+6, the meeting was a "mid-term review" of developments in the field of Adult Education since 1997. UNESCO is also giving a high priority to the use of ICTs for more equitable and pluralistic development in education. To that end, it has developed and distributed an Education for All Media Training Resource Kit.

The Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Partnership Meeting that met in Oslo (November 2003) resulted in: the extension of the FTI to all low-income countries; the establishment of a multi-donor Catalytic Fund to assist those FTI countries that do not have an adequate donor presence; and a Facility for Programme Preparation to help countries without an education sector plan to develop one. A Steering Group for the FTI Secretariat has been established, which will be composed of the current Bureau of the World Bank, UNESCO and the two co-chairs of the Donors Group.

UNESCO's support for improved multisectoral responses at the national level in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been varied and committed. Several countries have developed national HIV/AIDS plans for the education system mainly based on UNESCO technical support. Studies and research, as well as technical assistance, have helped countries analyze and plan to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on education systems and have contributed to the observed reduction in the spread of the epidemic, and a decrease in the number of people falling ill and dying from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses.

Since 2002, UNESCO has established and convened an Inter-Agency Task Team on HIV/AIDS and Education, which has published an inter-agency strategy; sponsored sub-regional training seminars for education ministry staff; sponsored several strategy papers on issues related to HIV/AIDS; and is completing a major international 100-country survey on the readiness of ministries of education to tackle the HIV/AIDS crisis. Also, for the past year, the Director-General of UNESCO has chaired the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO). UNAIDS cosponsors launched a new global initiative for HIV/AIDS prevention entitled "An AIDS-free Generation in less than a

Generation". UNESCO has also initiated numerous national level efforts aimed at reinforcing political commitment in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

UNFPA
UNFPA was designated as the UN convening agency for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in the areas of young people and condom programming. UNFPA helps countries track and analyse changes in population structure, distribution and size. Gender sensitive data can link population with other development concerns, helping to inform policy decisions affecting sustainable development and poverty alleviation. UNFPA promotes a common set of gender sensitive population-based indicators for use in reports on the Millennium Development Goals and in the United Nations.

WORLD BANK
The World Bank intensified its country support to enhance education at all levels; strengthening health systems for improved access to high quality primary health care and assisting countries to position themselves to successfully address key health issues, such as health financing, controlling communicable diseases, reproductive health and nutrition; and to better understand and integrate culture in its development activities. A critical and overarching need in this context is significant improvement in delivery of services to poor people.

Since its first education investment in 1963, the Bank has evolved into the largest single external financier of education worldwide. Lending for education reached $2.3 billion in fiscal 2003. The fiscal 2004 portfolio spans 142 projects in 89 countries and represents $8.4 billion in commitments. This financing is complemented by policy advice and sector analysis; sharing of global knowledge and promising practices; and technical assistance and capacity building.

The Bank is fervently committed to assisting countries to attain the MDG of providing all children the opportunity to complete a high quality primary education by 2015. This underlies its strong partnership with the global Education for All (EFA) initiative.

The Partnership for Strategic Resource Planning for Girls' Education in Africa, launched in 1997 with the Governments of Ireland and Norway, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Forum of African Women Educationalists, and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, financed research in six African countries on major constraints and opportunities to expand girls' enrolments, including financing options. The Partnership on Sustainable Strategies for Girls' Education, co-financed with DFID, UNICEF, and the Nike Foundation, has pursued windows of opportunity to close the gender gap at the primary level, selectively targeting those countries with an Interim or full PRSP in place; already identified as an FTI (Fast-Track Initiative) country; and with a large Bank-supported operation in preparation. Emphasis also has been on provision of technical support to large countries facing gender gaps to promote demand-side interventions,

The MDGs are increasingly providing the strategic foundation for Bank assistance to countries for programs in health. During 1995-03, the Bank committed $13.4 billion to improve health service delivery, including child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, improvements in health systems, nutrition and food policy, population and reproductive health. In addition, the Bank works with a number of partners on critical health issues, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines

The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness for Child Health Programme, developed by WHO and UNICEF, and strongly supported by the Bank at the policy and operational levels, is a target-specific programme that yields high returns to government spending at the margin. Immunization is acknowledged to be among the most cost-effective and highest-impact health interventions. Nearly 3 million deaths are prevented each year by immunization, and an even greater amount of illness and disability, but nearly 2 million children still die each year of vaccine-preventable diseases. Among many of its partnerships, the Bank is working with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization to increase access to immunization in developing countries.

The MDGs also call for a halt and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Over the past five years, the Bank has provided $1.5 billion in grants, loans and credits to fight HIV/AIDS, most of which has come through the Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme (MAP). The Bank has financed TB control in over 30 countries, with total commitments of over $560 million, including large projects in India and China—together home to over 40% of the world's TB patients. The Bank is also among the leaders in the Stop TB Partnership and supports more than 40 malaria control projects in more than 35 countries and is a founding partner of the Global Partnership to Roll Back Malaria.

In April 2003, in partnership with the Gates Foundation, Rotary International and the UN Foundation, the Bank launched a new attempt to eradicate polio by 2005. Through the Investment Partnership for Polio the Bank is providing concessional loans to countries to fight polio. Rotary International and the Gates Foundation have created a $50 million trust fund to buy down the loans at the completion of successful programs.

WFP
The WFP supports school feeding programmes, which encourage school enrolment and attendance on top of providing nutritious food to the children. Due to this impact, school feeding provides a critical input into both human and national social and economic development. Their sustainable benefit is the long-term improvement in workforce productivity expected from a better educated population. WFP, with partners, is currently integrating de-worming, HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition and health education, water and sanitation, school gardens and woodlots, environmental improvements, and capacity building activities into its school feeding programmes.

WFP's nutrition programming in emergencies has now been strengthened to pay more attention to underlying causes of malnutrition and seek to build links with longer term

developing activities. In this context WFP is currently allocating about 20% and 11% of its annual development and emergency resources respectively to mother-and-child health and nutrition interventions in over 28 countries.

In the wake of the HIV/AIDS pandemic with its devastating impact on food production and development in general, WFP established an HIV/AIDS unit in the headquarters to improve the quality and capacity of HIV/AIDS related programming and support advocacy and fundraising against the disease. Activities supported include; co-sponsoring UNAIDS to help prevent new infections and providing food as a safety net to those already infected and their families to mitigate the impact of the epidemic. In implementing these activities WFP is closely collaborating with UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, NGOs and respective national governments for an integrated approach.

WHO
The WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank, supported African countries in building capacities for health in PRSPs. More recently, WHO has launched in African countries the "Nairobi process", aiming at strengthening health systems to deliver better health outcomes and to reach the poor and the most vulnerable.

The organization together with the OECD in cooperation with all DAC members plus consultation with selected developing countries developed a publication on Health and Poverty (2003). WHO is pursuing partnership with the World Bank Institute to strengthen capacities of Government and institutions in tools and instruments of analysis in the area of health system and how it contributes to national strategies of poverty reduction. A joint course WHO-World Bank Institute (WBI) is now running for professionals of health sector at all level*s*.

WHO launched a series of actions to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the health sector. For example, in 2003, the World Health Assembly endorsed the WHO Global Health-Sector Strategy to strengthen the response of the health sector to the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS. Later that year, WHO and UNAIDS launched the "3 by 5" to treat three million suffering from HV/AIDS by 2005. WHO also produced a series of guidelines and technical tools to assist developing and transitional countries in scaling up simplified but comprehensive treatment and prevention programs. HIV and TB are now seen as key entry points for strengthening health systems and WHO and partners are providing direct technical assistance to countries. At the end of 2004 WHO and partners launched an innovative 'Health Systems Platform' to integrate broader health systems concerns into the operations of priority programmes for achieving the MDG, with an initial emphasis on HIVAIDS.

WHO is currently conducting monitoring in order to get a better picture of the global maternal and newborn health (MNH) burden. The organization is also conducting reviews to highlight the costs of ill-health to individuals, households and communities; conducting reviews to assess the extent to which socioeconomic development is affected by maternal and new-born (MN) morbidity and mortality; organizes interventions and health systems, as well as identifying policies and strategies that work, are pro-poor and

cost-effective; and identifying broader social and economic benefits of investing in MNH, with an emphasis on rights and equity, within the framework of poverty reduction strategies.

WHO has established a ten-member Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH) to consider how intellectual property rights can promote innovation relevant to public health, in particular for diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, and how funding and other incentive mechanisms, including institutional arrangements, may better contribute to this end.

WHO is working to achieve greater coherence between international trade and health policy through building the knowledge base and strengthening capacity in member states and in WHO itself to recognize and act on the public health implications of trade rules. The website www.WHO.int/trade/en contains trade and health policy notes, a working paper series, distance learning materials and key WHO publications in trade and health.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECLAC
By way of example, the document on the financing and management of education which ECLAC and UNESCO presented at the thirtieth session of the Commission proposes, in relation to the second Millennium Development Goal, the additional target of advancing towards universal pre-primary education. In most of the countries, pre-primary educational coverage is extremely low (less than 40% among children between the ages of 3 and 5), and there are powerful arguments to support the idea that resources for extending the coverage of pre-primary education would have a very substantial positive impact not only in terms of the goal of achieving universal primary education but also in the promotion of gender equity and the reduction of extreme poverty.

ESCWA
Regarding education, the Arab States have succeeded in reducing illiteracy rates for both men and women. They have also increased the length of compulsory school attendance. Moreover, the educational system on the whole was upgraded where the concept of gender balance was introduced eliminating from schoolbooks references indicating discrimination against women. As for health, successful programmes have been implemented by the Arab States involving improvements in family planning and reproductive health, reduction in maternal mortality rates, and an increase in the life expectancy of the Arab population in general.

COMMITMENT 7: ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

We commit ourselves to accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

With regard to the commitment on Africa and the least developed countries, UN agencies and the regional commissions have called for stronger partnerships with states to more effectively tackle the challenges posed by heavy debt burdens, HIV/AIDS and conflict. Priorities include improving governance and education, building initiatives for attracting foreign investment, and increasing social expenditures to develop human capital. There has been a great deal of cooperation between the agencies in working towards these goals and to find the most effective methods for promoting education, training and providing access to information and resources.

IMF

The IMF recognizes the need for more international development aid, and has consistently advocated for increased development assistance from donor countries. In partnership with the World Bank, the IMF has begun to analyze the viability of alternative, innovative aid financing mechanisms, including various global taxes such as a tax on arms sales and a global carbon tax, as well as of mechanisms to frontload aid, such as an International Financing Facility. However, all such proposals face technical challenges and political obstacles that would need to be addressed before they could be implemented.

UNAIDS

To assist in the process of visualising the future, UNAIDS and partners have undertaken a project entitled "AIDS in Africa: Scenarios for the Future. The project has developed alternative scenarios for the year 2025 for the continent of Africa, considering the underlying dynamics of AIDS that shape economies and societies. The project aims to help policy-makers test their current assumptions and actions, and adjust their course to shape the future by engaging the widest possible groups of stakeholders. It also aims to foster a shared, deeper understanding of the AIDS epidemic in Africa in order to promote effective, coherent and sustained action, and to catalyse partnerships among key stakeholders (including the private sector and NGOs). The scenarios project seeks to shape the public debate by fostering communication and understanding between different parties, so that there will be effective targeting and channelling of the financial and other resources allocated to preventing and mitigating the impacts of AIDS.

UNDP

As an example of support to the national economy in attracting international financial flows facilitated by globalisation, a series of UNDP initiatives in support of NEPAD were aimed at increasing foreign investment in Africa. These led to UNDP support of the

development of African stock exchanges and of the African Capital Markets Development Forum in April 2003, a joint initiative with the African Stock Exchanges Association and the New York Stock Exchange.

UNESCO

With a view to supporting the African initiatives towards poverty eradication and promoting sustainable development, the Director-General established in March 2003 a high level Consultative Group - the *UNESCO Committee for NEPAD* – partly composed of personalities representing different African sub-regions in various UNESCO's fields of competence, and of high level UNESCO staff. The establishment of a Forum of the Chief Executives of African Sub-regional Organization for the Support of the Cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD (FOSRASUN) in Ouagadougou in March 2003 is another major asset for strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and African countries.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank's *Strategic Framework for Assistance to Africa* (2004) stresses results and stronger partnerships with African countries. The Framework calls for a focus on four pillars: reducing conflict and improving governance; investing in people; increasing economic growth and enhancing competitiveness; and improving the effectiveness of aid.

Bank development assistance to Africa is determined by the availability of concessional funds provided by donors as replenishments to the International Development Association (IDA). The Africa region received 51% of IDA commitments during fiscal 2003, and has averaged about $7.4 billion over the past three years.

Debt relief has been a key priority for the Bank in Africa. In 1996, the World Bank and IMF launched the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The objective of the Initiative was to reduce the external debt of the world's poorest, most heavily indebted countries to sustainable levels. Following a comprehensive review in September 1999, the enhanced HIPC Initiative was created to provide faster, deeper, and broader debt relief and to strengthen the links between debt relief, poverty reduction, and social policies. As of mid-2003, HIPC debt relief for World Bank debt was $2.3 billion, of which $2.1 billion was for Africa. Debt service payments to the Bank have been reduced by more than 60%. The ratio of social expenditure to government revenue in these countries has steadily increased, from 33% in 1999 to 54% in 2002.

The Bank's development assistance to Africa is increasingly focusing on supporting countries to meet the MDGs. In fiscal 2003, 45% of total commitments supported the social sectors (education, health, water and sanitation, and other social services) while commitments to finance energy, mining, industry and trade fell. Support to control HIV/AIDS has been a special focus, with about $600 million committed through Multi-country HIV/AIDS Programs (MAP) in 20 countries. The Bank is active in 41 education projects in Africa, with priority on primary education and countries with low enrolments. Education commitments in fiscal 2003 were $424 million with a strong emphasis on EFA. Social protection has also been a growing area of attention (with commitments of

$544 million in fiscal 2003). Social funds account for 60% of the region's current social protection portfolio and have become an important tool to support community-driven development.

The Bank increased support to African countries emerging from conflict by developing an operational agenda to better tackle post-conflict issues. The Bank also administers the Multi-donor Trust Fund for Demobilization and Reintegration for the Great Lakes region, set up to provide a comprehensive framework for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts in the sub-region.

The Bank is also focusing on support for regional integration in Africa. It has formulated regional integration assistance strategies for West and Central Africa, with planned strategies for Eastern and Southern Africa. These strategies support harmonization of macroeconomic policies, liberalisation of intraregional trade, and promotion of regional investment, as well as development of regional projects in infrastructure and the strengthening of the capacity of regional institutions. The Bank also supports initiatives to increase cooperation on regional issues, such as the Nile Basin Initiative, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS along regional transportation corridors.

WFP
Over the years, WFP's average annual operational expenditures in sub-Saharan Africa have constituted over 50 percent of the organization's total annual operational expenditures. WFP operates entirely in least developed countries or low-income food-deficit countries.

WFP signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NEPAD Secretariat in 2003, within which the parties pledge to work to ensure that food aid programmes and activities are adequately reflected in the poverty reduction strategies, policies and programmes of African countries and regional and sub-regional organizations. This will especially be in NEPAD priority areas related to food security and livelihood protection, school feeding and basic education, nutrition, mother and child health, HIV/AIDS, vulnerability analysis, emergency needs assessment, contingency planning, emergency preparedness and response, and national and regional capacity building. School feeding and establishment of food reserve systems for emergency response purposes are the two areas that have been identified for early action.

WHO
The WHO is focusing on Maternal and Newborn Health and socioeconomic development in Africa. Efforts are aimed at focusing on empowerment of women to improve maternal and prenatal mortality and morbidity. Targets are set to reduce maternal mortality rates. Furthermore, services for pregnant women are often the entry point of services which prevents malaria, prevents or treats HIV/AIDS and STIs.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA

In the implementation of the NEPAD programmes, ECA provided substantive technical inputs. The Commission participated in all meetings of the Steering Committee. In addition ECA hosted a brainstorming workshop of the NEPAD cluster on economic and corporate governance and capital flows in January 2002. The Commission has also been closely working with the NEPAD Secretariat on developing indictors for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

COMMITMENT 8: ENSURE THAT STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES INCLUDE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We commit ourselves to ensuring that when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they include social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and enhancing social integration.

The structural adjustment programmes prescribed to developing countries have traditionally placed emphasis on macroeconomic and structural reforms and have imposed significant social costs. Policies on lending are being modified, giving attention to the negative consequences of developing policies based on purely economic goals. The goals of poverty reduction, employment and social well-being are being incorporated into current development policy lending.

WORLD BANK

Structural adjustment has been one of the most contentious forms of support provided by the World Bank to developing countries. Its emphasis on macroeconomic and structural reforms has often been perceived as generating short-term social costs in the interest of promoting economic growth. In response to these concerns and since the emergence of the PRS process, the Bank has been reconsidering its policy on adjustment lending. It has recently revised its policy to make it more consistent with the principles of country ownership, and linking policy-based lending to programmatic support as laid out in the PRS or a medium-term expenditure framework. Structural adjustment has thus been replaced by development policy lending.

The Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) framework was developed in 2001 by the Social Development Department and the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network of the Bank, to support PRSs by examining potential distributional effects of reforms supported by Bank operations. However, the approach was also found relevant for middle-income borrowers, culminating with its integration into the revised operational policy on development policy lending (Operational Policy 8.60 *Development Policy Lending*). PSIAs thus evolved into an approach that responds directly to the commitments made at the Social Summit to address the social costs of adjustment.

Since the Spring of 2003, the Bank has enhanced its efforts to mainstream the use of PSIA approaches by dedicating budget resources to country teams undertaking PSIA analysis. This supplemental financing has supported close to 70 PSIA-type activities (over 80% in PRS countries) and is expected to support over 40 additional activities in the coming year. Early PSIAs were focused mainly on utilities, agriculture, public sector and selected macroeconomic reforms. Over the past year, however, the sectoral coverage of PSIAs has broadened to consider trade and social sector reforms, and additional work is expected to cover decentralization, housing, fuel and urban development.

WHO

WHO is following the development of poverty-reduction strategies, including the PRSP, to assess how health issues are reflected. A database of health in PRSPs has been developed, www.who.int/hdp/database; it summarizes all information on health in PRSPs on a country-by-country basis and provides a brief analysis of this information. In addition, WHO is working with countries to develop and implement the health component of their PRS in order to ensure that: (i) health strategies better respond to the needs of the poor; and (ii) that governments and development partners provide adequate resources to implement these plans.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ESCWA

During the period 1996-1999, ESCWA undertook several studies to emphasize the need to incorporate social implications of structural adjustment programmes. The studies further drew the attention of policy makers to the negative consequences of structural adjustment programmes undertaken in some countries of Latin America and Africa for basing their policies on pure economic goals. Several countries of the region that are undertaking structural adjustment policies have established social funds (Egypt, Yemen and Jordan), while other countries have followed a flexible piecemeal approach to adjustment while trying to remedy the negative social consequences of adjustment policies.

COMMITMENT 9: INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AND/OR UTILIZE MORE EFFICIENTLY THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We commit ourselves to increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and regional and international cooperation.

> Research shows that increased aid could greatly improve developmental progress in developing countries. Efforts to increase effectiveness of the aid currently available require coordination and simplification of donor policies and practices. Other important measures are being taken to create an environment that encourages efficient use of resources for social development such as the promotion of governance that is transparent and accountable. Policy advice and technical assistance are being provided while efforts to establish national mechanisms for tracking outcomes are underway.

IMF

The IMF provides policy advice and technical assistance to member countries for mobilizing domestic revenues. Assistance is provided both in the design of tax policy as well as in strengthening revenue administration systems. IMF programs in PRGF-supported countries typically target an increase in tax revenues of 0.9 percent of GDP.

The IMF has taken a number of initiatives for promoting good governance. Member countries are encouraged to improve the transparency and accountability of decision making by adopting internationally recognized standards and codes. The IMF has itself developed codes for fiscal transparency and transparency in monetary and financial policies. The IMF also encourages member countries to subscribe to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDS) or participate in the General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS) to enhance the transparency, quality and timeliness of data. For countries benefiting from debt relief under the HIPC Initiative, the IMF has conducted assessments of the capacity of public expenditure systems to track poverty-reducing government spending and provided technical assistance to strengthen these systems. The IMF has also introduced minimum standards for controlling, accounting, reporting, and auditing systems for central banks of countries benefiting from IMF financial support.

The IMF has contributed to the world-wide efforts at preventing money laundering and illegal transfer of funds. The IMF provides technical assistance to help countries meet international standards regarding law and regulatory systems, enhance the capacity of financial institutions to combat money laundering, and to improve coordination and collaboration among different government agencies as well as between regional and international bodies.

The IMF cooperates in the work of the OECD-DAC and the multilateral development banks' roundtables to promote the harmonization and simplification of donor procedures and practices, and the alignment of their support with recipient country priorities. These

multilateral and donor cooperation efforts are seen by the international community as critical to enhancing the overall effectiveness of aid delivery to promote development and poverty reduction.

WORLD BANK
The World Bank has stressed that significantly increasing resources allocated to social development needs to be seen as part of a global effort to increase resources for development and the fight against poverty. As pointed out by World Bank President Wolfensohn, the world today spends well over $800 billion on defence, about $300 billion on direct and indirect agricultural subsidies and only about $50-60 billion on development aid. Increasing resources to assist countries meet the MDGs would seem to require rethinking these global spending priorities.

Research shows that developing countries could productively use at least twice the $16 billion a year pledged by the rich nations up to 2006.[1] In the longer term, as developing countries deepen their policy reforms and enhance their absorptive capacity, a doubling of current aid levels could be productively used to accelerate progress toward the MDGs.

There is substantial scope for increasing the effectiveness of aid by better aligning aid with country-owned development priorities as articulated in PRSs, and by harmonizing and simplifying donor policies and practices. The Simplification Agenda falls under five categories: policies and processes; project documentation; resources and incentives; fiduciary and safeguard requirements; and lending products. Since its launch, the Bank has cut the processing time for 'simple' projects from 24 to 12 months, emphasized borrower capacity in fiduciary and procurement processes, and introduced electronic monitoring of internal clearances to identify bottlenecks and reduce delays. The Bank is also supporting increased aid effectiveness through its fight against corruption, both in terms of the delivery of the Bank's own operations as well as by strengthening the capacity of client countries to improve governance and anti-corruption efforts.

WHO
WHO's Macroeconomics and Health work endeavours to 1) Integrate health within national poverty reduction/development processes; 2) Support targeted research for long-term planning and financing; 3) Engage cross-sectoral support for health; 4) Assist countries to strengthen linkages with development partners; and 5) Establish national mechanisms for tracking outcomes.

An increasing number of countries and sub-regional organizations (such as CARICOM, the Andean and MERCOSUR health initiatives) are demanding for WHO technical assistance in planning more efficient use of resources, targeting the poor. So far Macroeconomics and Health activities have resulted in advocacy work in more than forty countries and inputs in strengthening planning/financing in fifteen countries. This relies on the facilitation of more effective partnerships among government, the UN system, bi-

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[1] World Bank, 2004. *Partnership in Development: Progress in the Fight Against Poverty.* Washington, D. C.: World Bank.

lateral agencies, civil society, and the private sector. The work is done in close cooperation among Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECLAC
According to ECLAC, further discussion is needed regarding the resources needed to achieve the MDGs, the projected shortfalls in the various countries of the region in light of the levels of public and private resources currently being allocated to social investment, and alternative funding sources. Despite the complexities involved in this analysis, various estimates have already been prepared by ECLAC using differing approaches and assumptions which influence the calculations on the size of these shortfalls and the financing needed to cover them. One example given by ECLAC and UNESCO in the document on the financing and management of education which ECLAC and UNESCO presented at the thirtieth session of the Commission, is the estimate that, in order to meet the target for the universal completion of primary education by reducing the repetition rate and raising spending levels per pupil in the countries that are lagging the furthest behind, an additional US$ 12 billion would be required at the regional level from now until the year 2015.

ESCWA
ESCWA's work pertaining to social policies, community development, poverty and unemployment draws the attention of policy makers to increase resource allocation to social development issues. There is a need to address the shortfalls in integrated social policies by overcoming the dearth of information on region-specific social issues and establishing a forum for the exchange of information on social issues on a region-wide scale. Fund raising initiatives should be undertaken to increase the financial resources allocated for social policies and extra-budgetary funding is needed to further increase resources allocated for social development issues.

COMMITMENT 10: PROMOTE AN IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We commit ourselves to an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and sub-regional cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

UN agencies and regional commissions have formed a range of partnerships targeting numerous issues surrounding social development. In order to attain optimal outcomes these partnerships call for the collaboration and participation of national governments, civil society and all other stakeholders in the social development process. Joint efforts to advance understanding by creating and sharing information will help to inform the policy-making process.

IMF
To support and improve upon existing cooperation with the UN organizations and the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF maintains a regular dialogue with the UN, most notably through the work of its UN Office in New York which coordinates closely with the UN Secretariat and the UN Development Programme. In addition, the IMF's Office in Europe coordinates with the Geneva-based UN institutions, in particular the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The IMF also collaborates extensively with the World Bank, and has relations with other international organizations.

UNESCO
The Sector for Social and Human Sciences is the agency's focal point for Social Development and has taken several initiatives specifically targeting international cooperation for social development. The social and human sciences have a vital role to play in helping to understand and interpret the social, cultural and economic environment. They provide research, identify and analyze trends, propose paths of action. In order to enhance the link between social science research and policy making, a section dealing specifically with International Policies and Cooperation in Social Sciences has been established in UNESCO. The section is hosting the secretariat of the only intergovernmental research programme in social sciences in UNESCO, i.e. the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST).

The MOST Programme was created in 1994 focusing on capacity building in social sciences with the goal to promote sustainable and social development. In its current phase II, MOST is concentrating its efforts on instilling a culture of evidence-based policy making at all levels. Activities planned within the MOST framework will be major advocacy initiatives to put social science research on the forefront of policy-making.

MOST is carrying out numerous activities in the framework of "International Coalitions" under the headings of "Policy Networks" (MOST serves as a clearing-house for regular gatherings of Ministers of Social Development in the Latin American region); "Coalitions with NGOs" (e.g. participating in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil) and "Coalitions with the UN system", which, in particular, is dealing with the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly.   In the context of "Coalitions with the UN system", the MOST Programme, the International Labour Organization and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) joined hands on 7 July 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters to present and discuss the report "A Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities for All", prepared by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation which was established by the ILO in 2002.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) which covers all sectors of UNESCO activity seeks to ensure that all data it collects are disaggregated by sex and encourages national statistics to do likewise. The UIS has also instituted a major programme of statistical capacity building to ensure the quality of its data. The World Education Conference at Dakar gave the UIS a vital role in the monitoring of the Education for All goals which were re-emphasised at that time. The UIS has taken a lead in determining the most effective ways in which progress towards goals can be measured, bringing in statistical and policy experts as appropriate. New methodologies are being developed for measuring literacy, the completion of primary education (in collaboration with the World Bank), and 'out-of-school children' (in collaboration with UNICEF).

UNFPA
UNFPA has created a strong and diverse network of partners over the years among governments, NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector and individuals.

The European Commission/UNFPA Initiative for Reproductive Health in Asia has worked with 19 European NGOs and more than 60 local partners to improve reproductive and sexual health in seven South and South East Asian countries. UNFPA also signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to boost cooperation in providing reproductive health services, particularly to refugee women. UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP agreed to harmonize programme approval and adopt a number of tools to facilitate programming as part of the Secretary-General's reform agenda to simplify programmes and operations. UNFPA chaired the group tasked to review the former guidance note on joint programming among UN agencies.

WORLD BANK
The World Bank is engaged in 236 regional and global partnerships. Many of the problems countries face today know no boundaries. For this reason, the international community has undertaken concerted action against disease, environmental degradation, barriers to trade and barriers to knowledge. Selectivity at the global level reflects the Bank's global public goods priorities: communicable diseases, the environment, trade and integration, information and knowledge, and the international financial architecture.

Adoption of the MDGs represents one of the most important global partnerships ever attempted by the international community. Included as one of the MDGs is the development of a global partnership for development. It is clear that without an effective global partnership all the other MDGs will not be attained. At the Financing for Development Conference held in Monterrey, Mexico in March, 2002, consensus was reached on a new partnership between developed and developing countries: developing countries take responsibility for their own development programs and set in place the policies that will put them on track to achieve the MDGs, and international agencies will work together to support them and create a global environment conducive to poverty reduction and growth.

WFP
The WPF's Strategic Plan for 2004-2007 sets out as its first management priority, to strengthen partnerships with national governments, civil society and United Nations organizations in the process of enabling the poor and food-insecure to take advantage of development opportunities and promoting their food security.

At the international level WFP is actively involved in the FAO coordinated UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security. The network promotes exchange and dissemination of information, experiences and best practices, reinforcing ties among UN organizations and agencies and mobilizing support for government efforts to implement rural development and food security programmes.

The International Alliance Against Hunger is another initiative by the Rome based agencies that associates governments and parliaments with the international community, civil society organizations, the private sector and concerned individuals in the fight against hunger. The alliance operates both at national and international levels to influence national food security policies and to advocate for the global fight against hunger respectively.

WFP is also a core member of the UNDG/ECHA working group (Emergency Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs), which is developing a guidance to strengthen coherence among the UN system in responding to post-conflict transition challenges. The working group bases its work on contextual analysis of the political, humanitarian, peace-keeping, reconstruction and development dimensions. The working group maintains a dialogue with member states on transition issues with a view of attaining a common understanding with regard to donor policies on one hand and capacity development and national ownership on the other.

UN-HABITAT
In reviewing the mandates given to the United Nations agencies and programmes through the Millennium Declaration and the series of international conferences since the 1990s – including the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action – some development issues stand out as having particular relevance to UN-HABITAT:
    1. Urbanization and the urbanization of poverty

2. An integrated strategy to eradicate slums
3. Strengthening local authorities
4. Further developing innovative finance mechanisms.

WHO
WHO is strengthening its role in coordination and partnership processes at country level. This includes participation in the UN country team, and co-ordination and collaboration with World Bank and other multilateral institutions. WHO contribution to the development of health components of CCA/UNDAF increasingly builds on priorities identified in the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, WHO corporate strategic framework for working in and with a country. Internal measures to allow flexibility at country level and to improve connectivity with country offices are being put in place to facilitate the process.

At the international level, WHO and the World Bank jointly organize the *High-Level Forum on the Health MDGs*. This is a meeting of senior decision-makers from developing countries and development cooperation agencies which aims to identify opportunities for accelerating action on the health-related MDGs. The first meeting was held in January 2004 and many of its action points cover issues relevant to Copenhagen + 10, including poverty reduction strategies, aid levels and aid effectiveness, and monitoring progress.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ESCWA
Pursuant to its resolution 198 (VVII) of 31 May 1994, ESCWA established the Committee on Social Development, which is an intergovernmental committee and meets on a biennial basis. The Committee assesses and evaluates progress achieved towards implementing resolutions emanating from global conferences including WSSD. So far, the Committee has had four sessions and the fifth is scheduled for early 2005. The Committee is composed of eminent high-level officials (Ministers and Director Generals in Social Development) and discusses the progress of work of ESCWA in social development, reviews, evaluates and critically assesses the achievements of the social development division.

ESCWA also adopted a resolution to establish a Consultative Committee for NGOs. The first meeting of this Committee took place in December 2003. The Committee aims at forging a tripartite partnership between all stakeholders in the social development process, notably, the governments, non-governmental organizations and international bodies including the United Nations family. A draft blue print for cooperative partnership will be reviewed by the second meeting of the Committee in December 2004.

II. ISSUES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE FURTHER PURSUED

Efforts undertaken by UN agencies and regional commissions since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 have made varied progress but much work remains to be done. Some of the areas that have been identified as the highest of priorities are, *inter alia,* poverty, social exclusion, migration, health care, education, employment, and gender equality. Globalisation has brought increased inequality to many regions and sustainable methods of development must be found. To reduce these inequalities, the level of resources made available must increase and policy-making must be linked with human development concerns to ensure a more equitable distribution. Partnerships, cooperation and sharing of knowledge are essential in working towards the goal of social development envisioned in the World Summit.

IFAD

IFAD has stressed that poverty eradication is the most critical international commitment and it is also a fundamental issue of social development. To achieve this commitment, a deeper understanding of who the poor are, what constitutes their livelihoods and the basic causes of their poverty is required. About 75% of extremely poor people live in rural areas in developing countries and mainly depend on agriculture for their living. The rural poor suffer from an inefficiently low share of schools, health care, roads, land, technology, research, and institutional and market access. The rural sector has largely remained neglected, despite its great concentration of poor people.

In the future IFAD will maintain its focus on field-based operations and developing practical approaches that have a proven impact in terms of rural poverty reduction. IFAD will work increasingly on developing and sharing the knowledge and experience generated from country programme experiences and on influencing national, regional and international policies affecting the economic livelihoods of rural poor people.

Rural poverty reduction is primarily the responsibility of developing countries themselves. But they need greater support from their partners as they seek to promote good governance and an enabling policy and institutional environment, and to mobilize domestic resources and investment. In the coming years, IFAD will continue to work to eliminate specific policy bottlenecks such as improvements in, and security of, access to land and water; legal frameworks for community organizations; policies and regulations for financial service delivery; quality and other standards for agricultural inputs and commodities; policies for promoting and regulating private-sector-led market development; decentralization and increased accountability of public institutions to the poor; and equitable distribution of public expenditure.

IFAD will also seek to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS – not just as a medical issue, but also as a poverty issue. It will also pay even more attention to the different opportunities and constraints of women, and make special efforts to work with governments to enhance

women's role in the economy. IFAD will support the pursuit of these national-level objectives through its engagement in PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) processes. IFAD will seek to ensure that the rural development problems, and the interests of the rural poor, are fully reflected in PRSPs; and it will provide suggestions on how best governments, donors and civil society can work together to reduce rural poverty.

Above all, however, IFAD will promote the capacity of rural poor people and their partners to engage directly in policy dialogue. IFAD will continue to work towards enabling the rural poor to overcome poverty – as perceived by the poor themselves – by fostering social development, gender equity, income generation, improved nutritional status, environmental sustainability and good governance. The essence of IFAD's operations is partnership. IFAD implements no projects or grant activities on its own and partnership lies at the heart of advocacy efforts and policy dialogue.

Achieving the international commitment on poverty eradication requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries, based on sound policies, good governance at all levels, and the rule of law. Globalisation offers opportunities and presents challenges. Many poor developing countries face special difficulties in responding to these. National development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, in which development aid, debt relief and private financial flows are mobilized, and international monetary, financial and trading systems become increasingly inclusive and equitable. Most importantly, development efforts need to focus on the rural areas, where the majority of the poor live.

UNDP
UNDP will focus on the following areas in the 2004-2007 programming cycle:
- follow-up to the 2005 MDG Summit, as the centre on identifying the means required to meet the MDGs in every country and on developing a global action plan to get there;
- scaling-up of anti-poverty efforts to help countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular poverty, gender equality and global partnerships for debt, trade and aid;
- design and implementation of several major programmes on pro-poor policy, together with key UN partners including UNICEF, ILO and UNCTAD. These programmes will encompass the use of domestic resources, scaling up of public investment, employment targeting and the development of trade policies. The UNDP Global Poverty Centre in Brasilia will support this effort;
- strengthening governance institutions and civil society actors in developing national capacities for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. In collaboration with the Oslo Centre for Governance and top external learning and research institutions in the South and North, the Group will design and implement governance skills training for key practitioners and partners from developing countries;
- capacity development for MDG localization (support for decentralization, local governance, and urban development aimed at ensuring stakeholder participation);

promotion of accountable and efficient public administration (democratic dialogue, political participation and access to information); promotion of human rights (through the rule of law and access to justice); e-governance to promote innovative, efficient and speedy solutions to complex governance problems in poor countries;

- capacity development to ensure that trade policies are linked to human development concerns and outcomes and to incorporate pro-poor trade policy in poverty reduction strategies;
- management of crisis recovery processes through the UNDP Transition Recovery Programme, which focuses on restoring the capacity of governments and communities to rebuild and recover from crisis, thus preventing lapses back into crisis. It seeks both to catalyze sustainable development activities and to build upon earlier international and local efforts; and
- advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women as a key driver across all UNDP development initiatives and priority areas and integrating gender equality in programming, rather than being treated separately.

UNESCO

UNESCO's commitment to fostering a culture of peace should acquire new relevance for inspiring action by international organizations, States, civil society and individual citizens in the face of ongoing and newly flaring conflicts among and within States. By resolution 55/47 the United Nations General Assembly designated UNESCO as lead agency for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) with a focus on education.

The injustices, exclusions, deprivations and inequalities that poverty, and especially extreme poverty, engenders and, above all their causes, must effectively be dealt with, if social justice and cohesion, economic and social progress, democracy and ultimately peace are to be further strengthened. Poverty is not simply a matter of material deprivation. It is a matter of human dignity, justice, fundamental freedoms and basic human rights. But the existing paradigm apparent in various approaches to poverty reduction lacks the genuine inclusion of the above-mentioned aspects as the mobilizing force of poverty eradication. It is thus up to UNESCO, endowed with an ethical mandate unique to the organization, to address the problem of poverty in terms of moral responsibility and ethical necessity implicating the world community.

Poverty and conflict are prime causes that put human security at risk and endanger human dignity and social justice. Human security is inconceivable without sustainable development including environmental protection. Its attainment will require profound changes in people's and societies attitudes and their patterns of behaviour, especially as regards consumption and production as well as enhanced international cooperation.

The right to education is a human right and unless it can be secured, all other goals are bound to suffer. The right to education must be transformed from ideal to reality as today, even after decades of effort, over 100 million children do not attend school and 150 million children drop out. Gender inequalities constrain access and achievement. It

is important that the gender equality component be included in the Education For All (EFA) national action plans.

In today's world, it is crucial to address human rights education through a holistic perspective. Human rights education should therefore be considered as fundamental for the democratization of education systems, in the context of national education reforms, with a view to integrating the learning and practice of human rights.

Education will also be a key feature in the global campaign to fight HIV/AIDS. UNESCO has a clear obligation and a comparative advantage in areas of work regarding preventive education against HIV/AIDS, in particular culture sensitive approaches to HIV/AIDS initiatives, in encouraging the application of scientific research for treatment, in highlighting the human rights implications and ethical challenges and in advocacy and policy dialogue.

The challenges emanating from globalisation and from the trends in many areas are becoming ever more complex, often driven by scientific and technological insights and breakthroughs, and they carry manifold implications. Policies to address these challenges increasingly demand scientific advice based on analysis, understanding, sharing and anticipation, drawing on input both from the natural sciences and the social and human sciences. UNESCO is in a unique position to assist and advise governments in that regard, as it has at its disposal, under one roof, capacities and expertise pertaining to major scientific disciplines which can be brought to bear in an integrated and consistent manner.

In the pursuit of its multi-pronged mission, UNESCO will also face new types of challenges: to promote cultural diversity, to preserve the world's heritage, including its intangible domains, and to foster dialogue among cultures and among civilizations. Information and communications technologies hold the potential to foster hitherto unknown types of engagement, contacts and interaction among individuals, peoples, communities, nations, cultures and civilizations that can be harnessed to build understanding, solidarity and peace at all levels and to reduce isolation and exclusion so often associated with poverty.

A new challenge today is to build international consensus on newly required norms and principles to respond to emerging ethical challenges and dilemmas as a result of globalisation. The trend towards a homogenization of educational, cultural, scientific and communication activities is disquieting and risks to bring about uniformity of content and perspective at the expense of the world's creative diversity. Technological innovations and powerful mechanisms of control demand new approaches to the protection of the rights of the individual. Biogenetics, new technologies, medical discoveries and other scientific advances define areas requiring ethical reflection and eventually normative action through the formulation of pertinent policies and instruments.

UNFPA
UNFPA's Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF) for the period 2004-2007 outlines development goals, outcomes, indicators and strategies. The four strategies for the 2004-2007 MYFF converge around developing national capacity and reflect the Fund's strategic direction through an increasing emphasis on evidence-based advocacy and

policy dialogue; more strategic partnerships; building and using a knowledge base; and developing systems for improving performance. These strategic directions are based in the context of population and development, reproductive health, and Gender.

Areas fundamental to social development that are gaining interest and will need to be pursued further include:

- Raising the profile of sexual and reproductive health in conjunction with women's rights as it relates to social development and poverty reduction efforts is an important priority. Bringing greater attention to incorporating RH targets and indicators into the existing processes of PRSPs and other country-level frameworks would greatly assist in addressing this gap.
- Addressing with greater attention, the situations and needs of adolescents, considering that they constitute a large proportion of the population, their important place in the life-cycle and that the current gaps between the MDGs and the present reality are directly related to this age group. Incorporating youth more fully will have far reaching implications in the short-term and long-term, on both micro and macro level economic, social and human development indicators.
- The elderly are increasingly becoming a larger proportion of the population given changing age structures. Policies and programs for the elderly, including human resource development and social security schemes will need to be considered for this age group.
- Migration, both internal (rural to urban) as well as international is on the increase making it an element that must be considered more concretely in policy and programming.

WFP

Action is urgently required to address poverty and marginalization. Strategies for broad based economic growth and long term increases in agricultural productivity are needed and relevant national policies must the strengthened. Investments in agriculture and social development should be improved and timely action is required to reduce agricultural subsidies in developed countries and allow market access for agricultural products and other goods from developing countries.

Growth and productivity gains do not always trickle-down to the poorest and if they do they are slow to materialize. In the meantime the poor continue to suffer even when progress is being made. They are often too destitute to take advantage of the development opportunities created. A twin-track approach is needed that covers the immediate needs of the hungry poor, in order to save their lives and allow them to take advantage of opportunities to improve their livelihoods. In light of this, the following areas may be considered:

- The need to boost mobilisation of resources for the neediest countries and people.
- The need to further strengthen the Results Based Management and Reporting system together with Business Process Review approach in the UN system to ensure effective tracking of results achieved and progress made in implementing and supporting national social development activities.

- The need to further efforts of harmonising and simplifying cooperation mechanisms within the UN system and between the UN system and other national and international development partners.
- The need for action to address risk and vulnerability in LDCs, and in this context explore the role played by food, in creating an enabling environment where the poor can take advantage of development opportunities.
- The need to provide necessary support for the development of local and regional food markets in developing countries that would encourage increased agricultural/food production and enhance economic and social development.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA

Central Africa is one of the most destabilized sub-regions in Africa, according to ECA-Central Africa (ECA-CA). The sub-region is characterised by several trends including low human development indexes (HDI), poverty, weak and fragile democratic processes, conflicts, as well as the spread of diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

It is generally argued that the economic crises of the 1980s and 1990s largely contributed to the worsening of the social situation in the sub-region. It is also recognized that the structural reforms adopted (usually under pressure from the financial international institutions) in order to improve the macroeconomic environment did not provide enough room for improvements in the social sector. In addition, little attention was paid to the most vulnerable parts of the population.

The renewed commitment to fight poverty was an illustration of the concern expressed by the international community and more specifically the United Nations about the prevailing situation in some developing countries. It offered an opportunity for countries to develop initiatives to be undertaken to improve the standard of living for all. Some countries in the sub region embarked on holistic plans and programmes with the main objective of fighting poverty. However, some specific aspects of these programmes still need to be reinforced as they do not always take into account the challenges deriving from the dynamics of the current economic and social integration.

Many countries in the sub-region entered the new Millennium with the legacy of "mal governance". In some countries, this situation has been amplified by difficulties encountered in the process of institutional changes required for the promotion of a democratic society. Economic, political and social links need to be systematically considered and highlighted in all initiatives in order to set the proper environment for the improvement of the social conditions of the populations.

Views on social development issues of particular relevance to Southern Africa, according to ECA-Southern Africa (ECA-SA) include:
Most of the issues raised at the WSSD in 1995 and reaffirmed at the WSSD+5 are relevant to Southern Africa. The unacceptably high poverty and unemployment levels, poor and worsening socio-economic conditions, low productivity, gender imbalance,

HIV/AIDS, debt burden, globalisation, weak institutional infrastructure, as well as weak human capacity development remain serious challenges to the advancement of social and economic development in Southern Africa. Food insecurity is another major challenge even as SADC member States are taking positive steps to address the issue.

Sufficient support from the international community, civil society, and private sector as partners in development in the context of NEPAD are critical in addressing the challenges. Empowering the people and communities to participate in socio-economic development that affect their well-being should be given special attention to ensure people-centred development.

The advent of NEPAD has undoubtedly contributed to focusing the attention of the countries of the African region and the international community on the prerequisites of development for Africa, specifically the attainment of peace and security through good economic and political governance. African institutions, such as the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities i.e. SADC and COMESA and their affiliated institutions are already playing a key role in the quest for good governance in Africa. This is being witnessed amongst Member States that are making headway in establishing mechanisms that ensure institutional accountability, economic management and good political governance. Furthermore, the number of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Southern Africa is on the increase and, more importantly, CSOs are being given the political space that is necessary for them to take up their responsibilities in promoting a rights-based approach to development.

According to the ECA the following social development issues that require particular attention in West Africa:
1. *Poverty:* A large part of the population in the region continues to live on less than one dollar per day. The HIPC initiative is insufficient for alleviating the debt burden in a context of declining foreign investments, agricultural products and especially raw materials which render the countries more vulnerable.
2. *Health:* The infant mortality rate remains high in the region due to pandemics like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. The budgetary restrictions limit the intervention capacities of the state. Improvement is also needed in facilitating access to health care services.
3. *Environment:* Demographic expansion, rapid urbanization and poverty combined with the overexploitation of resources have all contributed to environmental degradation in the region. Meeting these challenges requires integrating sustainable environmental management with poverty reduction strategies and allowing countries to analyze the causes of degradation to develop solutions in a systematic framework.
4. *Education:* Socio-cultural obstacles impede universal enrolment of young girls in school and limited financing affects the quality of schooling available. There is also a lack of employment for graduates which raises the timely question of the opportunity cost to getting an education. While countries must make efforts to eliminate the gender disparities in education they must also make more efforts in solving the key question of employment.

5. *Employment:* The employment issue is a major preoccupation at the highest level of African policymakers. Unemployment and underemployment have reached endemic proportions that undermine poverty reduction initiatives and social development prospects in the sub-region. The labour markets are depressed and deregulation that came with the reforms has made the rights of workers increasingly vulnerable.

ECLAC

Improving income distribution in the region is an ethical imperative that would also help the region achieve higher growth rates and reduce poverty. In order to improve income distribution, public policies will need to be directed at the following objectives: (a) facilitating access to assets (land, capital, knowledge and technology); (b) achieving a geographically balanced form of productive development in which small and medium-size enterprises play an important role; and (c) implementing social policies based on the principles of universality, solidarity and efficiency. The necessary funding for such policies could be obtained by means of an appropriate fiscal covenant and a more efficient allocation of the available resources.

With the Millennium Declaration serving as its framework, the Commission's core proposals regarding the development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries refer to:
1. The need to achieve economic growth with social equity;
2. The need to design national and regional policies for positioning the countries advantageously in the globalisation process;
3. The need to invest sufficient resources in human capital (health and education), to time those investments properly and to recognize that education and knowledge are pillars of sustainable productive development;
4. To ensure environmental sustainability of development;
5. Recognition of the fact that it is impossible to move towards fulfillment of the MDGs unless the sharp geographical disparities within countries, as well as inequalities among social strata and those based on ethnic differences, are reduced rapidly on a sustained basis;
6. Acknowledgement –as in the Millennium Declaration– of the fact that gender equality is not only an objective in its own right but that it also plays a vital role in the achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals;
7. Recognition of the major advances being made in the region in the sphere of public policy and of the need to ensure the continuity of these policies and programmes while adapting them to the conditions existing in each country;
8. The importance of calling attention to the insufficient resources upon with the countries can draw to take steps towards meeting the targets and of recognizing the fact that, in order to deal with this shortage, it is essential not only to establish a "fiscal covenant" that will raise the level of public resources available to countries that are lagging the furthest behind, but also to increase international development assistance, as suggested in the last of the MDGs.

ESCAP

ECSAP has identified the following persistent and emerging social development issues in the region:

1. *Persistent human poverty:* The pace of decline in the number of those suffering from hunger is insufficient, and greater investment needs to be made in education and health. Education will bring enormous benefits to the economy and standards of health and nutrition while unlocking the creative potential of half of the population.

2. *Increased population movement (migration):* The benefits of globalisation have been unequally distributed and many of those marginalized by its effects have chosen to migrate. As a result many people encounter high levels of abuse and exploitation and are unaware of their rights. This ongoing demographic transition is becoming more complex and efforts should be made to ensure for migrant protections.

3. *Ageing of the population:* Due to lowered fertility and mortality rates the proportion of the population over age 65 is expected to triple between 1995 and 2050. Not every country will achieve a high level of economic and social development during this period and governments are already facing too many fiscal and resource constraints to ensure an adequate standard of living, benefits and protections for older persons. In most countries attention is being given to health care, pensions, social security protection. Also of significance are the efforts to protect older persons' rights and their participation in decision making and social development

4. *Women in development:* The efforts at promoting and integrating the role and status of women have led to many achievements but many obstacles remain. Fuller social participation by women continues to be blocked by legal and customary barriers including family and labour laws and deep rooted socio-cultural perceptions and practices. Efforts to support women in the areas of health, literacy, education and employment must be continued.

5. *Disability:* An important challenge in the near future is the creation of a unified regional effort on the elaboration of a new international convention for persons with disabilities and its ratification and implementation at the regional level. A strong commitment by governments is needed to break the cycle of poverty and disability to ensure that the rights of all to participate in development and decision-making are achieved.

6. *HIV/AIDS epidemic:* HIV/AIDS has become a key issue for human security in the Asian and Pacific Region. More than 60 percent of the world's population lives in the ESCAP region and this is where some of the fastest growing epidemics are located. HIV/AIDS prevention programmes are poorly funded and resourced. More needs to be done to as serious political hurdles to prevention, as some of the behaviours leading to HIV/AIDS remain taboo and even criminalized.

ESCWA

According to ESCWA, the following conditions should be met if member States within the region are expected to better implement the Copenhagen Declaration:

1. An integrated approach to social policy-making should be taken while considering the impact of globalisation and taking into account economic and social changes.

2. Review of experiences learned from successful application of countries outside the ESCWA region in dealing with cultural diversities and their success in using social development policies to achieve social cohesion for a wide range of culturally and racially diversified population groups.
3. Each country should ensure formulation, implementation and follow-up of social policies in a coordinated approach with full participation of NGOs, civil society, media, research centres and government bodies. The United Nations entities, including ESCWA should work more closely to enhance the implementation of social policies at national and regional levels.
4. There is a need for awareness raising campaigns to encourage the political will to promote peace, tolerance, and human rights as initiatives towards building democratic institutions, respect for minorities and freedoms as well as active involvement of civil society.
5. Poverty eradication policies should be devised and implemented as part of clear and comprehensive social policy objectives, with global support and regional implementation.
6. Member States must show political commitment to combating poverty and carry out continuous evaluation and assessment of such policies.
7. The international community should enhance their support to fight poverty by providing financial assistance and expertise.
8. Attention should be given to the training of qualified staff at the community and local levels for an efficient administration of social development projects.