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The World Summit for Social Development: a Comprehensive Policy Framework in 1995 and 2015?

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Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World: Progress in Advancing Social Development and Lessons Learned.

UNDESA, new York, 17-18 July 2014

The WSSS in Context

- New York: Children Summit, 2000
- Rome: Nutrition Conference, 1992
- Rio: Earth Summit, 1992
- Cairo: ICPD, 2004
- Beijing: Conference on Women, 1995
- ***Copenhagen: WSSD, 1995***
- Istanbul: Habitat, 1996
- Dakar: Education Forum, 2000
- **New York, Millenium Summit, 2000**

WSSD Commitments

- Create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.
- Eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be set by each country.
- Support full employment as a basic policy goal.
- Promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights
- Achieve equality and equity between women and men
- Attain universal and equitable access to education and primary health care.
- Accelerate the development of Africa and the least developed countries
- Ensure that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals.
- Increase resources allocated to social development.
- Strengthen cooperation for social development through the UN.

Relevance of the 1995 WSSD

Relevance defined in respect to:

- Generating new ideas
- International Policy Commitments
- National willingness and capability of Implementation
- Results

Developments since 1995

Major contextual phenomena

- Globalization
- Precarisation of labour
- Growing inequality

Major Contextual events

- 1997 Asian Crisis
- Food spikes 2007
- 2008 Great Recession

New Ideas and International Policy Commitments

Post 1995 Conference and Commissions:

- Millennium Declaration 2000
- WSSD + 5 , + 10
- MDG 2000, +5, +10
- WCSDG 2004 , Decent Work Agenda
- WHO Sustainable Health
- Commission on Social Protection 2010 (Bachelet)
- Post 2015 Development Agenda

How relevant was WSSD for the MDGs?

Create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

Not available

Not available

Eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be set by each country.

Formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, and preferably by the year 1996, the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context.

1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

Support full employment as a basic policy goal.

Not available

1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

Promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights.

Not available

Not available

The WSSD 1995 in Context of MDGs

	Copenhagen Social Summit (1995)	Rome Food Summit (1996)	Dakar Education Forum (2000)	Beijing Conference on Women (1995)	New York Children Summit (1990)	Rome Nutrition Conf. (1992)	Cairo ICPD (1994)	Istanbul HABITAT II (1996)	Rio Earth Summit (1992)
A: Poverty reduction									
B: Employment									
C: Halve hunger									
A: Primary education									
A: Gender equality									
A: Child mortality									
A: Maternal mortality									
B: Reproductive health									
A: HIV/AIDS (reverse spread)									
B: HIV/AIDS (access to treatment)									
C: Diseases (malaria)									
A: Sustainable development/envIRON.									
B: Biodiversity (reduce loss)									
C: Water and sanitation									
C: Slums									
A: Trading/financial systems									
B: Least developed countries									
C: Landlocked/small Island dev. states									
D: Debt									
E: Access to medicine									
F: Access to technology									

Direct/primary reference

Indirect/secondary reference

Not explicitly mentioned

Four sets of reactions to MDG's

1. Optimists : Sachs, Pronk ,Vandemoortele
2. Strategic Realists, Fukada-Par, Jolly
3. Skeptics: Easterly, Clemens, Dutch WRR
4. Radical critics: Antrobus, Saith, Pogge

Policy relevance: Reports WSS since the WSSD 1995

- **1997** **Social Development**
- **2001** **Social and Human Rights Questions: Social Development**
- **2003** **Social Vulnerability: Sources and Challenges**
- **2005** **The Inequality Predicament**
- **2007** **The Employment Imperative**
- **2010** **Rethinking Poverty**
- **2011** **The Global Social Crisis**
- **2013** **Inequality Matters**

Relevance in respect of national policies and results

Major Elements of WSSD 1995:

- ✧ Poverty
- ✧ Employment
- ✧ Social Integration

These will be covered in detail in the next 3 sessions.

Some general tendencies

Poverty

- Decline in percentages, mainly contributed through steep decline in China
- Absolute numbers in Africa not declining
- Most poor people live in Middle Income countries
- Increase of relative poverty in developed countries

Inequality as important as poverty

Inequality:

- Less prominent in WSSD and MDG but since gained attention in public debate, however less policy commitments as yet
- Causes of inequality linked to unfettered globalization
- Functional distribution of Income becomes relevant again
- Inequality result of decline in social institutions and to large importance of financial system

Employment

- Changing Nature of Work : Insecurity, Inequality, precariousness in developing and developed countries

Financial Globalization and 2008 Crisis:

- poor were hurt 3 times
- Unemployment and precarious employment can undo MDG achievement (Tunisia, Egypt)

Social Inclusion

- Effects of globalisation
- Growing inequality
- Precarisation
- Correlation between inequality of opportunity and inequality of outcome
- Role and perception of the middle class

WSSD relevant in 2015?

Without anticipating too much the discussions in the following sessions one can well argue that the 3 themes of the WSSD and the analyses behind these (employment, poverty and social inclusion) are still relevant in 2015, though differently than in 1995.

The themes need however to be actualised in the context of current challenges and should be complemented with themes of inequality and global governance, especially policy coherence.