

10-year Review of the World Summit for Social Development



Copenhagen, March 1995

**Commission for Social Development, 43rd session
9-18 February 2005**



Review of the Implementation of the Copenhagen
Declaration and Programme of Action



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The forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development marks the tenth anniversary of the first ever United Nations World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), a meeting attended by 117 Heads of State and Government which raised hopes and expectations and adopted ten commitments for the improvement of the human condition.

tenth

Today, while these hopes and expectations are perhaps not dashed, they are certainly diminished as a number of trends are negatively affecting social development, notably socioeconomic deprivation and inequality among individuals, social groups, entire communities, countries and even some continents. In addition, threats to civil liberties derived from security interests are on the rise, and the devastation from conflict, disease and natural disasters subject millions to lives of poverty and despair.



An obvious sign of inequality. Photo: UNCHS



A woman from the Akha ethnic group sits with two granddaughters whose parents have died of AIDS, in the village of Ban San Jamai in the province of Chiang Rai, Thailand. Photo: UNICEF/HQ97-0227 / Jeremy Horner



Accra, Ghana. 2004. UN/Photo Eskinder Debebe



Therapeutic feeding center; Sodo, Ethiopia. June 2003. UN/Photo Eskinder Debebe

improving the human condition



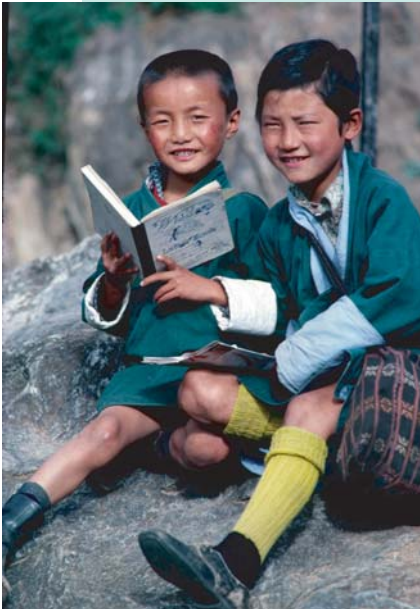
increasing opportunities

The fact remains, today as well as a decade ago, that no human being should be condemned to endure a brief or miserable life only because he or she was born in the wrong class, in the wrong country, with the wrong religious affiliation, with the wrong ethnic background or with the wrong gender.

Overcoming these biases requires an approach that puts human beings at the center of development, one that considers economic growth as a means and not as an end in itself, an approach whose ultimate goal is to increase, protect and attain the opportunities for improving the quality of life of current and future generations.



Women attending an adult literacy class in a village near Bauchi, Nigeria. UN/Photo S. Sprague



Two school boys enjoy reading in Bhutan. UN/DPI Photo



A school for disabled young people in Washington, D.C. UN/DPI Photo



Brazil. UN/DPI Photo

The Social Summit, notably through its three core issues - poverty eradication, promoting full employment and fostering social integration - treats social development as both an objective and a process involving all sectors and actors of society.

Social development refers to the well-being of the person and to the harmonious functioning of society. It includes improvements in individual and family well-being through the enjoyment of human rights, the provision of economic opportunities, the reduction of poverty, and access to social protection and social services.

It also includes the building and maintenance of social relations, structures and institutions through which individuals and groups constitute a viable society.

poverty eradication

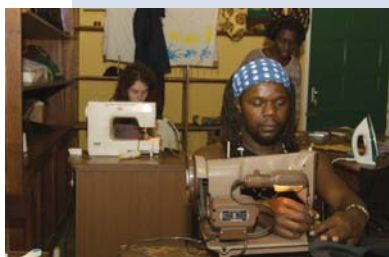
promoting full employment



A young mother holds her child in Cochabamba, Bolivia. UN/DPI Photo



United States. UN/DPI Photo

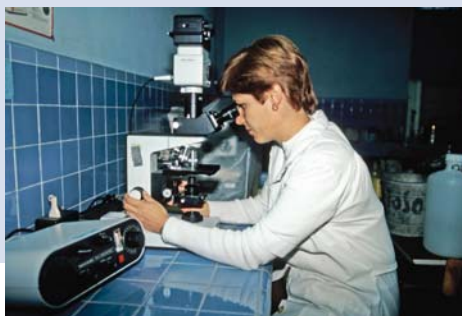


UNFPA supported programme; Maputo, Mozambique, Mozart projects. 2003. UN/Photo Eskinder Debebe



WFP food for work programme; Matutuine, Maputo province, Mozambique. 2003. UN/Photo Eskinder Debebe

fostering social integration



Young marine scientist at work in the Havana Marine Laboratory, Cuba. UN/DPI Photo.

The emergence of "a society for all" - summing up the central message of the Summit that every human being is entitled to participate in, contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political development - brought equity and equality to the core of the policy agenda.

enhance social cohesion

The Social Summit recognized that equity, equality, social justice and human dignity, rights and fundamental freedoms constitute the core values which should be shared and nurtured by all societies. Those values not only enhance social cohesion but also contribute to reducing or eliminating many root causes of social conflicts; they actually provide the necessary means for satisfying the basic needs of all, promote socially responsive markets, foster the creativity of people and protect the environment.



A Kirghiz family at the foot of the Kongur mountains in Zinjiang, China. UN/DPI Photo



International Day of the World's Indigenous People, United Nations, New York. UN/DPI Photo.



Adolescent boys walk away from the weapons they once carried as child soldiers during a demobilization ceremony in a transit camp near the town of Rumbek, Sudan, after being evacuated by UNICEF from a combat zone in a nearby province, Sudan. Photo: UNICEF/HQ01-0093 / Stevie Mann



Children giving signs of peace. UN/Photo Stephenie Hollyman

