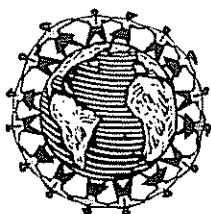


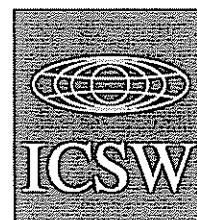
**Commission on Social Development
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**High level panel discussion to commemorate the
fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social
Development**

**Statement by
the NGO Committee for Social Development
and
International Council on Social Welfare**



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Chair, Excellencies, distinguished guests

I present this statement on behalf the NGO Committee for Social Development and the International Council on Social Welfare.

The World Summit for Social Development held in March 1995 in Copenhagen was the beginning of a new era. At the end of the Summit, 117 world leaders signed the Copenhagen Declaration. The Declaration contains 10 commitments the first of which is "We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development." It is valid to describe the Summit as the beginning of a new era as many other plans of actions and conventions drew their inspiration from the World Summit

After each of the ten commitments the governments outlined what they would do to fulfil the commitments. In addition to the commitments the governments adopted a Programme of Action. The Programme of Action has four components: an enabling environment for social development; eradication of poverty; expansion of productive employment; reduction in poverty and reduction of unemployment; and, social integration.

Throughout there is a positioning of social development in the context of economic, political, social, cultural and legal environments. This is significant because it does not separate social from economic. In the first commitment, social development is the result of a coherent approach within a society. Full employment is noted as a basic priority of economic and social policies. Equality and equity between men and women in commitment five is significant as only a remnant of the commitment survives in the MDGs. Commitment six is explicit in its reference to universal access to services. Where the MDGs are built on minimum achievement, commitment six refers to 'the highest attainable standard'. The final sentence in commitment six suggests: "The purpose of these activities is to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration".

The last point to emphasise in the commitments is number eight, which puts structural adjustment programmes in the context of social development goals, eradication of poverty, promoting full and productive employment and enhancing social integration. Once again poverty eradication is a part of the whole of social development. The Copenhagen vision is a very integrated approach.

There is a new wave of governments and civil society who wish to reclaim the spirit of the Copenhagen agenda. The comprehensive vision of social development agreed upon at the World Summit provides an excellent and durable base to shape the agendas of national governments and international organisations.

On this occasion of the 15th Anniversary let us join together to recommit our governments and civil society to the Commitments and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen Summit.

Thank you Chair, Excellencies and distinguished guests