

Information Note

**Compilation of summaries of reports on the implementation
of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
and the 24th special session of the General Assembly
provided by the United Nations system**

**Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations**

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I. Introduction

1. As part of the follow-up to the 24th special session of the General Assembly entitled “World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs requested the heads of all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to submit reports on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action¹ and the Further Initiatives for Social Development² adopted at the special session.
2. In response to that request, a total of 18 replies were received from different parts of the UN system on measures taken to implement the outcome of the special session. The present information note provides a compilation of summaries of the submissions received. In preparing the summaries, the Division for Social Policy and Development (DESA) has put particular emphasis on new policies or initiatives being carried out in direct response to the recommendations of the special session as well as existing programmes that support the objectives of the outcome document. For each organization, a separate column has been included listing the paragraphs of the outcome document which either contain a specific reference to or call for action by that organization, or which have been highlighted by the organization in its report as being of relevance to its work.
3. The present compilation of reports received provides a strong testament to the commitment of the agencies, funds and programmes to the social development objectives of the Summit and the special session. Nearly all parts of the UN system have given careful consideration to the recommendations of the special session relevant to their mandates, and several new actions and initiatives have been taken. The broad involvement in and deep commitment to the implementation of the outcome document of the organizations of the UN system, which is reflected in the number of actions and initiatives presented in this compilation, can in part be attributed to the valuable contribution made by these organizations in the preparatory process for the special session, in particular through the submission of reports containing recommendations which were subsequently incorporated into the draft outcome document for consideration by the Member States.
4. At the same time, it can be noted that many activities reported were in existence prior to the adoption of the Further Initiatives for Social Development. From this perspective, the special session of the General Assembly provided a strong political endorsement of the ongoing efforts of the UN system to promote social development for all. As such, the outcome of the special session should not only be regarded as a source of concrete recommendations for follow-up action; it also contributes to the broader political environment in which the agencies, funds and programmes operate.

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

² A/RES/S-24/2, annex.

II. Summaries of reports of the United Nations system

United Nations

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for DESA follow-up action or relevant to the work of DESA:
Para. 8: Instituting systems for assessing and monitoring the social impact of macro-economic policies;
Para. 9: Developing national and regional guidelines for assessing the social and economic cost of unemployment and poverty;
Para. 10: Considering ways of sharing experiences and best practices in social development to promote the goals of the Summit,
Para. 17: Encouraging corporate social responsibility;
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;
Para. 29: Sharing best practices in social protection systems;
Para. 32: Re-assess macro-economic policies to balance goals of employment generation and poverty reduction with low inflation rates.
Para. 64/65: Supporting research and exchanging national experience and best practice in policies and programmes on ageing to contribute to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;
Para. 75: Promoting social integration in post-conflict management strategies and activities;

1. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

5. Within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) serves as the focal point for follow-up to the Summit and the special session. Apart from its overall responsibility for supporting and encouraging the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Further Initiatives for Social Development by Governments, civil society, the private sector and organizations of the United Nations system, the Division has undertaken a number of initiatives to implement mandates and recommendations for action contained in the outcome of the special session.

6. The Division has initiated a process of inter-agency coordination within the UN system on follow-up to the special session. On 1 November 2000, an inter-agency consultation was convened in New York with participation of representatives of more than 20 agencies, funds and programmes to provide an opportunity, on an informal basis, to report on programmes and plans for follow-up to specific mandates and recommendations and to discuss further action on cross-cutting themes contained in the Geneva outcome document.

7. In relation to the call by the special session for systems to monitor the social impact of macro-economic policies, a study partly funded by the Division on the impact of external liberalization on economic performance and social policy, edited by Professor Lance Taylor and published by Oxford University Press, is to be published during the 39th session of the Commission for Social Development and copies will be available for delegates and others attending the launching. The book includes studies made in nine countries: Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, India, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Zimbabwe. As well, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs has been working on a paper on the Social Dimensions of Macro-economic Policy for some time and this is to be released shortly.

8. In the context of the Division's work on poverty, including as focal point for the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, consultations have been carried out with UNDP and other agencies on the modalities for a global campaign to eradicate poverty. Further discussions on plans for a global campaign are scheduled in the major coordinating bodies of the UN system.

9. As part of the preparations for the 39th session of the Commission for Social Development, as well as the implementation of the call by the special session for the sharing of best practices in the field of social protection, the Division convened two expert group meetings on issues related to the priority theme of the Commission "Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in globalizing world". The first meeting, held in Berlin from 10 –12 October 2000, discussed the theme "Beyond Safety Nets: the challenge of social protection in a globalizing world". The second meeting, held in Cape Town from 30 October-1 November 2000, was on the theme "Coping in Dire Circumstances: traditional and modern schemes of social protection in the context of development."

Para. 79: Ensuring gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the special session;
Para. 140: Establishing guidelines for policies aimed at generating domestic revenue for social policies;
Para. 141/142: Mobilizing new and additional resources for social development at the national level and international level;
Para. 149: Strengthening ECOSOC in its coordination of follow-up to the UN conferences and summits;
Para. 155: Launching a global campaign to eradicate poverty;
Para. 156: Requesting ECOSOC to regularly assess the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the special session;

10. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will be launching a project entitled “International Forum for Social Development”, which will bring together main actors of the development process from the public and private spheres to debate the policies and modes of cooperation that could contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Summit and the special session. Initial sponsors of the project include the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland. Several other Governments have expressed interest in supporting the project.

11. The Division for Social Policy and Development and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom will jointly host a meeting at the end of March 2001 on the integration of social and economic policies. The meeting will provide an opportunity for representatives of Member States to exchange experiences on best practice in integrating the social and economic, particularly in the context of globalization and of discussions on international financial architecture.

12. The Division is also making substantive contribution to the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Policy Network, launched in his report to the Millennium Assembly. The Division is hosting and co-financing the Joint Secretariat for the initiative, which is composed of the United Nations, the ILO and the World Bank. The Network will develop policy recommendations and proposals for action on youth employment for consideration by the 56th Session of the General Assembly.

13. In the field of ageing, the Division's activities are focused on the preparation of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in 2002. The UN Programme on Ageing, acting as the Secretariat for the Assembly, is responsible for the preparation of the revised International Plan of Action on Ageing. The ongoing UN Research Agenda on Ageing, which supports the special session's call for research on the actual and projected situation of older persons, will contribute to the revised plan of action. The first draft of the plan is before the Commission for Social Development acting as Preparatory Committee for the World Assembly.

14. The special session called for the mobilization of additional resources for social development, inter alia, by conducting a rigorous analysis of new and innovative sources of funding for social development. In response to this request, and as part of the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and the preparations of the High-level International Intergovernmental Event on Finance for Development, the Secretary-General has convened a High-level Panel, chaired by the former President of Mexico, Dr. Ernesto Zedillo, and composed of several former Ministers of Finance and other eminent persons, to provide recommendations on a broad range of issues related to finance for development, including proposals for new and innovative sources of funding such as an international currency transaction tax.

15. As part of the Division's technical cooperation activity, a series of sub-regional meetings are being held on capacity-building and networking to enhance awareness and promote implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the special session. The first sub-regional training workshop was held in Guatemala (30 November-6 December 2000) with participation of representatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations from Spanish-speaking Central American and Caribbean countries. A second workshop, organized jointly with UNDP, was convened in Moscow (9-22 December 2000) to support capacity-building and human development in CIS-countries. The workshops respond to a substantial need - at local, national and regional levels - for

information on the outcomes and priorities of the Summit and the special session and provide an opportunity for countries to share best practices and experiences, as well as discuss major obstacles, in the promotion of social development. Additional sub-regional meetings are planned in Nairobi on “Inter and Intra Regional Cooperation to promote effective social development policy and practice: A forum for the exchange of Asia-Africa experiences”, and in Harbin, China on “Networking and capacity building for social development in Northeast Asia”.

16. The Government of the Russian Federation proposed at the special session that a major regional conference be held on social policies in countries with economies in transition. Discussions are under way with the Division for Social Policy and Development about plans for such an event, with the expectation that it could be held in 2002.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for DPA follow-up action or relevant to the work of DPA:

Para. 23: Considering measures to minimize the social and humanitarian impact of sanctions;

Para. 74: Strengthening organizations and mechanisms working for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts;

Para. 75: Promoting social integration in post-conflict management strategies and activities;

2. Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

17. DPA is engaged in efforts to explore measures to minimize undesirable humanitarian consequences of Security Council sanctions. Substantive support has been provided to expert seminars on instruments of targeted financial sanctions and on making travel bans and arms embargoes more effective. In April 2000, the Security Council established an informal working group to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions.

18. The Security Council, in two open debates in November 1999 and July 2000, has also recognized the importance of conflict prevention and called for the development of a comprehensive UN conflict prevention strategy involving all parts of the UN system as well as Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations. Experience has shown that unless a preventive strategy is directed at tackling the root causes of violent conflict, it will not have lasting effect. For this reason, the United Nations has broadened its approach to conflict prevention to include the cross-cutting concept of peace-building, which encompasses a broad range of political, military, humanitarian and developmental activities. Today, almost every part of the UN system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, has started to engage in prevention and peace-building activities in areas such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, strengthening of the rule of law, human rights and electoral and governance assistance.

19. A number of mechanisms have been put in place to ensure effective coordination within the UN system on conflict prevention. The Interdepartmental Framework for Coordination works to prevent violent conflict by identifying, analyzing and recommending preventive measures from an interdepartmental and interagency perspective. The Executive Committee for Peace and Security is composed of the heads of key UN departments, agencies and programmes and can make recommendations to the Secretary-General. Another important innovation is the UN system-wide Early Warning and Preventive Measures training programme, administered by the UN Staff College in Turin.

20. DPA, in its capacity as focal point within the United Nations for post-conflict peace building, is in the process of developing measures aimed at strengthening United Nations post-conflict peace-building initiatives. One of the practical manifestations of the endeavour is the ongoing elaboration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) of a Strategic Framework approach for Response to and Recovery from Crisis, to be applied to a small number of countries where the United Nations has an acknowledged political mandate and leadership role for conflict resolution and peace-building. The Deputy Secretary-General has been given responsibility for the overall elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Framework approach.

21. The multi-dimensional nature of post-conflict peace building also demands effective coordination in the field. In this regard, the Secretary-General has recently strengthened the authority of the Special Representatives in the field. In Liberia, for example, the first United Nations Peace-building Support Office has been established. Similarly, UN Peace-building Support Offices have been created in Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic and Tajikistan.

22. General Assembly resolution 55/144 of 8 December 2000 invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the UN system to initiate or to continue to take all

necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories³. DPA supports, inter alia in the context of the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the application of the objectives and goals of the Summit and the special session to these territories. DPA is also engaged in work related to financial supervision and tax regimes of the territories.

³ American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for ODCCP follow-up action or relevant to the work of ODCCP:
Para. 21: Encouraging relevant bodies of the United Nations system to address the issue of corruption;
Para. 22: Encouraging the ongoing work on a draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the additional protocols thereto;
Para. 69: Promoting measures to prevent illegal trafficking and transport of migrants and trafficking in persons;
Para. 70: Finalizing the trafficking and smuggling protocols of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
Para. 71: Supporting the efforts of UNDCP to implement its mandate;
Para. 141: Supporting efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing corruption, bribery, money laundering and illegal transfer of funds;

3. Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP)

23. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) is engaged in follow-up to the special session in the following areas: money laundering, corruption, transnational organized crime, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

24. Money laundering: The broad objective of ODCCP is to strengthen the ability of countries and organizations to fight money laundering. ODCCP assists Governments in countering money laundering through the UN Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML) by supporting legal, financial and law enforcement authorities through technical assistance to develop the necessary infrastructure. A model law on money laundering, confiscation and international cooperation on matters related to the proceeds of crime, which provides a state of the art anti-money laundering legislative framework, has been updated and upgraded. ODCCP is addressing the issue of laundering of criminal assets through offshore financial centres and has initiated a dialogue with concerned States in cooperation with offshore financial service centres to establish a set of minimum performance standards to be achieved by offshore jurisdictions. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the General Assembly in October 2000, will strengthen the mandate concerning money laundering by, inter alia, giving legal force to the requirement to adopt measures to regulate financial activities and facilitating the detection, investigation and persecution of money laundering.

25. Corruption: ODCCP serves as focal point within the UN system in the field of prevention and control of corruption and provides advisory services and technical assistance to Member States. At the request of the General Assembly, ODCCP has initiated work on the elaboration of an international legal instrument against corruption. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will meet in May 2001, will consider a report of the Secretary-General in this regard and provide further recommendations on the legal instrument. In addition, ODCCP is engaged in the Global Programme against Corruption (GPAC), which assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build institutional capacity to prevent, detect and fight corruption. GPAC is currently being implemented in Benin, Hungary, Lebanon and Romania with projects being prepared for Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

26. Transnational organized crime, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons: The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, were adopted by the General Assembly on 15 November 2000. A third protocol on illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition is expected to be finalized by early 2001. ODCCP is also engaged in the implementation of the Global Programme against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for OHCHR follow-up action or relevant to the work of OHCHR:
Para. 8: Instituting systems for assessing and monitoring the social impact of macro-economic policies;
Para. 9: Developing national and regional guidelines for assessing the social and economic cost of unemployment and poverty;
Para. 13: Reducing the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence;
Para. 16: Endorsing the speedy implementation of the Cologne debt-relief initiative and the enhanced HIPC initiative;
Para. 17: Encouraging corporate social responsibility;
Para. 23: Considering measures to minimize the social and humanitarian impact of sanctions;
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;
Para. 74: Strengthening organizations and mechanisms working for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts;
Para. 75: Promoting social integration in post-conflict management strategies and activities;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;

4. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

27. OHCHR is particularly active in implementing initiatives relating to poverty alleviation, corporate responsibility, conflict resolution and structural adjustment. There is a strong link between the commitments adopted at the Summit and the special session and the international machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights. Starting from a rights-based approach to development, the follow-up activities of the human rights machinery take place on three levels: intergovernmental initiatives such as resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights; activities linked to the mandates created by the Commission or the General Assembly such as Special Rapporteurs or Independent Experts; and activities initiated by the High Commissioner.

28. In direct response to the outcome of the special session, OHCHR has undertaken an initiative to improve the dissemination of information in the human rights context of the specific initiatives adopted in Geneva. The website of OHCHR will include specific links and references to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Further Initiatives for Social Development. Additionally, OHCHR has written to the key experts within the human rights machinery – including the Independent Experts on the Right to Development and on Extreme Poverty as well as the Special Rapporteurs on Structural Adjustment Policies, on the Right to Education, the Right to Food and the Right to Adequate Housing and the Special Rapporteur on Migrants – identifying the new initiatives in the Geneva outcome document relevant to their activities. In other areas, the activities of the international human rights machinery support the follow-up and implementation of several of the new initiatives adopted at the special session.

29. The Right to Development: The first session of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development was convened in September 2000. The Working Group considered reports from the Independent Expert on the Right to Development, which recommended a step-by-step approach to implementation - initially focusing on three basic social objectives: food, primary education and health - and the adoption of a development compact between donor countries, developing countries and international financial institutions.

30. International financial architecture, structural adjustment policies and debt: The Commission on Human Rights has recognized that structural policies have serious implications for the ability of developing countries to abide by the Declaration on the Right to Development. A working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights, meeting in February-March 2001, will consider means of enhancing the dialogue between the human rights bodies and the international financial institutions.

31. Poverty alleviation: OHCHR has been mandated by the Commission on Human Rights to convene an expert seminar on the need to develop a draft declaration on extreme poverty. The Independent Expert on Extreme Poverty, in her report to the Commission, has characterized poverty as a denial of human rights and called for a global alliance to fight poverty.

32. Business: In August 2000, a working group under the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights reviewed the activities of transnational corporations as they affect the enjoyment of human rights, including analyzing the existing standards regulating transnational corporations, and examined draft standards on the human

Para. 101: Recognizing the importance of access to essential medicines at affordable prices and the contribution of intellectual property rights;

Para. 102: Analyzing the consequences of agreements on trade in health services;

Para. 103: Monitoring and analyzing the pharmaceutical and health implications of relevant international agreements;

Para. 104: Integrating the health dimension into policies and programmes;

Para. 122: Encouraging 25 African countries most affected by HIV/AIDS to adopt time-bound targets for reducing infection levels;

Para. 129: Ensuring that adjustment programmes do not lead to decreasing economic activity or cuts in social spending;

Para. 155: Launching a global campaign to eradicate poverty;

rights conduct of companies. Further work is being done on procedures for the implementation of such standards. OHCHR is one of the lead agencies in the Secretary-General's Global Compact initiative. OHCHR is also engaged in efforts to involve the business community in the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in August-September 2001.

33. Sanctions: The international human rights machinery is increasingly examining the social and humanitarian impact of sanctions. The mandate of the High Commissioner as coordinator of human rights activities throughout the UN system includes drawing attention to the human rights implications of measures taken by all organs and bodies of the United Nations. A study conducted by OHCHR on Iraq, submitted to the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs in September 2001, concluded that the current sanctions regime has had a disproportionately negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by the population.

34. Education: The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education has identified the need for greater financial support to the goal of education for all, in particular the need for improved debt relief and development assistance. OHCHR is convening a seminar in April 2001 to identify benchmarks and indicators on the level of enjoyment of the right to education, to be used by Governments as well as international lending institutions.

35. Health: The Inter-Agency Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS has reviewed the linkages between HIV/AIDS and human rights and more effective implementation at the national level of HIV/AIDS-related rights through the UN Resident Coordinator system. In collaboration with UNAIDS and UNESCO, an international consultation on "HIV/AIDS and Youth: Human Rights and Social Development" has been carried out. In the context of health and Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), OHCHR is conducting an analysis of the human rights impact of the TRIPS Agreement for consideration by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in August 2001.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNAIDS follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNAIDS:
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;
Para. 98: Strengthening political commitment and efforts at the international and national levels against HIV/AIDS;
Para. 122: Encouraging 25 African countries most affected by HIV/AIDS to adopt time-bound targets for reducing infection levels;
Para. 123: Supporting African Governments in expanding and strengthening programmes related to young people and HIV/AIDS;
Para. 124: Supporting countries most affected by HIV/AIDS through the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA);
Para. 125: Supporting African Governments and civil society organizations, inter alia, through IPAA and national programmes, in the provision of key services;
Para. 126: Supporting and assisting research and development centres in Africa and the LDCs in the field of vaccines, medicine and public health:

5. Secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

36. The goals of social development will not be achieved until the spread of HIV/AIDS is arrested. AIDS has evolved from a generalized health crisis to a full-blown development catastrophe. Decades of gains in education and health, especially in Africa, are being eradicated by the HIV epidemic. The epidemic has considerable negative macro-economic impacts as well as socio-economic implications at the community level. Efforts to stop the global HIV/AIDS epidemic should be directly linked to poverty eradication and social development, including efforts to achieve the goal of reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015 and the global campaign to eradicate poverty. One example of the close connection between HIV prevention and poverty eradication has been the integration of AIDS activities in a range of development programmes such as the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

37. The outcome document of the special session contains follow-up action for UNAIDS in three areas: the target of 25 percent reduction of HIV infection levels among young people in 25 highly HIV affected countries; the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa; and national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS infection and to address the consequences of HIV/AIDS transmission.

38. The target of 25 percent reduction of HIV infection levels among young people in 25 highly HIV affected countries: One of the clearest lessons learned from country experiences is that where HIV prevention has been successful, young people have been at the forefront of change. The decline in HIV infection in Uganda over the past five years is particularly striking in young women, and the first signs of an HIV infection rate turn-around have also been documented among young people in Zambia and Tanzania. In areas with active prevention programmes, prevalence in young women fell by 60 percent over a period of six years.

39. In conjunction with UNFPA and other partners, “The Alliance with youth for reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa”-initiative, funded by the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation over 5 years, will support youth programmes of the Ministries of Health, Education, Youth and Welfare in four countries in Africa – Botswana, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda. “The Programme towards improved reproductive health and promotion of safer sex among young people” is a broad and integrated response to the target of reducing HIV infection rates in young people, supporting activities in seven countries in southern Africa over a period of three years with funding from the UN Foundation/UN Fund for International Partnerships.

40. In the framework of the special session, the UNAIDS Secretariat and its co-sponsors elaborated in February 2000 a strategy for reducing HIV infection levels in young people by 25 percent by 2005 in 25 African countries most affected by HIV/AIDS. The main areas recommended for strategic actions include:

- The need to expand surveillance programmes to collect data by age, sex and year;
- National policies to promote young people’s rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, including general strategic goals of HIV prevalence reduction among young people as well as more specific goals related to priority problem areas such as child abuse, rape, education for in- and out-of-school youth, and age restrictions on the purchase and use of alcohol;

- Care and support for young people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including addressing problems of family disintegration such as grandmothers struggling to care for orphans; households headed by children and children ending up on the streets, thus becoming exceptionally vulnerable to HIV infection, violence and drugs;
- Support for projects in countries to improve school health education, including assistance to develop and improve school curricula, and training of teachers, curriculum planners and Ministries of Education officers to enhance their capacities for integrating health education and HIV prevention in school programmes; and
- Mobilization of young people, families and communities to effectively reach young people with the right information, at the right time and to actively involve them in efforts to protect themselves and others.

41. The International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa: The International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA) brought together a wide cross-section of partners, including Governments, the private sector, NGOs and the UN, and has largely been responsible for creating an ever increasing momentum in the fight against AIDS in Africa. While giving priority to 13 countries with generalized HIV epidemics, the partnership nevertheless intensifies its work in all countries in Africa. In December 2000, the Secretary-General officially launched the IPAA as a key vehicle for consolidating and intensifying continent-wide support to fight the AIDS epidemic. The IPAA aims to help reduce the number of new HIV infections in Africa, promote care for those who suffer from HIV/AIDS and mobilize society to halt the advance of AIDS, particularly through two areas of action:

- Resource mobilization and allocation, including through international fund-raising from multiple donors and lending institutions and the Debt-for-AIDS initiative to increase funding for HIV/AIDS programmes from resources generated from debt-relief and to accelerate debt relief for countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS; and
- The development of National AIDS Strategic Plans that support strategic approaches to national HIV/AIDS planning and build the capacity of countries to develop and implement relevant and sustainable multisectoral responses to HIV/AIDS.

42. National measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS infection and to address the consequences of HIV/AIDS transmission: One of the lessons provided by 20 years of experience with the AIDS epidemic is the need to address both the risks and vulnerabilities to AIDS. Social policies, with clear statements of objectives and measures, are essential to provide the framework for reduction of vulnerability to HIV infection.

43. UNAIDS, WHO and other UNAIDS co-sponsors have launched the Drug Access Initiative (DAI) as part of its efforts to strengthen health care services, including improving access to HIV care, support and treatment, in developing countries. UNAIDS advocates with countries, providers of health care services and suppliers of commodities to significantly improve access to HIV care for people living with HIV/AIDS. DAI, piloted in Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and Vietnam, has developed innovative, effective models to improve access of developing countries to drugs for treatment of HIV and opportunistic diseases.

<p>New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNU follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNU:</p>
<p>Para. 13: Reducing the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence, including through preventive and other measures to address the excessive volatility of short-term capital flows;</p>
<p>Para. 27: Promoting participatory poverty assessments as well as social impact assessments to define the extent and localization of poverty and the groups most severely affected in order to design anti-poverty strategies;</p>
<p>Para. 146/147: Developing indicators for assessing social development;</p>

6. United Nations University (UNU)

44. UNU has been dealing with social development issues directly and indirectly in its research and capacity-building activities. Salient among them are policy studies of UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU/WIDER), which participated in the Copenhagen seminars held in 1998 and 1999 in preparation of the special session. UNU/WIDER is currently preparing policy briefs based on recently completed projects on the New Roles for the UN and Bretton Woods Institutions, Land Reform and Land Policy, and Rising Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction.

45. The analysis of welfare trends over the last 40 years simultaneously shows considerable progress, unresolved old problems and the emergence of new types of welfare deterioration and threats. More analysis needs to be undertaken to determine how this divergence is to be interpreted. Social monitoring needs to be carried out with a variety of indicators depicting different aspects of human development. UNU/WIDER continues to study such issues, focusing currently on the following themes: Privatization, Unemployment and Welfare in China; Insurance against Poverty; The Social Impact of Privatization and Regulation of Utilities in Latin America; How to Manage the Volatility of Capital Flows to Developing Countries - Since the Asian Crisis; New Fiscal Policies for Growth; and Globalization and the Obstacles to the Successful Integration of Small Vulnerable Economies.

United Nations funds and programmes

7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNDP follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNDP:

Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;

Para. 26: Incorporating goals and targets for combating poverty into national strategies for socio-economic development;

Para. 27: Giving priority in poverty eradication strategies to investments in education and health, social protection and basic social services;

Para. 118: Strengthening of the integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance to the Least Developed Countries;

Para. 146/147: Developing indicators for assessing social development;

Para. 155: Launching a global campaign to eradicate poverty;

46. The outcome of the special session represents a renewal of the mandate for coordinated follow-up at the country level by the Resident Coordinator System and provides renewed political backing for UNDP's coordination and direct programme efforts, particularly in poverty eradication.

47. While the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 assigned specific follow-up roles to ILO and UNDP, the Further Initiatives for Social Development additionally brings in a variety of UN actors to address other socioeconomic challenges, including UNAIDS in the fight against HIV/AIDS; WFP and FAO in food security; WHO in health; UNDCP in the fight against crime and drugs; WTO, ITC and UNCTAD in supporting developing countries to take full advantage of the global trading regime; and UNICEF in tackling the child labour issue jointly with ILO. This explicit integration of a broad array of UN actors will facilitate the role of the UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator in associating the entire country team as well as non-resident agencies in country-level follow-up to the Summit and the special session. One example of such country-level cooperation is in the work to develop indicators for social development within the framework of the Common Country Assessments/UN Development Assistance Framework.

48. In its work on poverty, UNDP puts particular emphasis on measures to place poverty eradication at the centre of economic and social development to halve extreme poverty by 2015; developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies; incorporating goals and targets for combating poverty into national strategies for socio-economic development; and giving priority to investments in education and health, social protection and basic social services. The outcome document provides political endorsement of many of the central objectives and activities of UNDP's anti-poverty programme.

49. UNDP intends to work with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) - in particular through the UNDG Task Force on Poverty - to advocate for the operationalization of the UN Poverty Strategy and the Options for Action, which contain many elements fundamental to a global campaign to eradicate poverty. The Task Force will also help UN country teams to develop the capacity to monitor poverty indications at the country level, determine policies and programmes to address poverty needs on a country by country basis and outline the commitments to be made by the Governments of donor and programme countries to meet the needs for poverty eradication.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNCTAD follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNCTAD:
Para. 11: Improving access to the global trading system through, <i>inter alia</i> , furthering the process of accession to WTO and providing technical assistance by WTO, UNCTAD, ITC;
Para. 13: Reducing the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence;
Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;
Para. 101: Recognizing the importance of access to essential medicines at affordable prices and the contribution of intellectual property rights;
Para. 102: Analyzing the consequences of agreements on trade in health services;
Para. 107: Supporting programmes to assist Africa/LDCs to take full advantage of the multilateral trading regime, <i>inter alia</i> through WTO, ITC, UNCTAD;
Para. 142: Improving existing mechanisms for helping to stabilize commodity export earnings;

8. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

50. UNCTAD is engaged in four main areas of activity which contribute to the implementation of the outcome of the special session: globalization and development; investment, enterprise development and technology; commodities and trade in goods and services; and services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency.

51. UNCTAD's tenth conference (UNCTAD X), held in Bangkok in February 2000, affirmed the mandate to continue to actively assist developing countries in their positive agenda for new multilateral trade negotiations by providing technical and analytical inputs to their negotiating objectives as well as the mandate to assist countries to accede to the WTO. Other measures to improve access to the global trading system promoted by UNCTAD include the elaboration of a project proposal on dispute settlement in international trade, investment and intellectual property that is devised to provide policy makers, practitioners and operators in developing countries with knowledge and training in existing rules and procedures and applicable laws governing dispute settlement.

52. In the context of the initiative adopted to reduce the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence, UNCTAD provides analysis and proposals to support developing countries in the design of sound domestic policies to create and maintain stable macroeconomic and financial conditions and to achieve greater coherence of global economic policy-making. In the latest Report of the Secretary-General on Recent Developments in the Debt Situation of Developing Countries (A/55/422), UNCTAD provided concrete policy-recommendations on, *inter alia*, proposals for a debt standstill and for the establishment of an independent panel of experts to determine debt relief requirements of individual countries. Technical assistance is provided for capacity-building in developing countries to strengthen domestic financial systems, to improve the management of exchange rates and international financial transactions and, through the Programme on Debt Management and Financial Analysis (DMFAS), to improve debt-management.

53. As the focal point for the preparations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, UNCTAD is coordinating the work on the draft Programme of Action, taking into account the views of Member States, the outcomes of major global summits and conferences as well as ongoing processes within the multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. This preparatory work is being carried out in close collaboration with relevant organizations of the UN system.

54. The joint WHO-UNCTAD publication, "International Trade in Health Services: a Development Perspective"⁴, prepared in 1998 on the basis of an intergovernmental expert group meeting, remains the most comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of further trade liberalization of the health services sector on public health.

55. UNCTAD conducts research to identify the causes of instability and decline in commodity price earnings of developing countries and to provide recommendations to improve such earnings. The most recent findings in this regard are contained in the report entitled "World commodity trends and prospects" (A/55/332), submitted to the 55th session of the General Assembly. UNCTAD assists commodity-dependent countries to enhance their capacity to use modern commodity price risk management tools to address price fluctuations.

⁴ WHO/TFHE/98.1; UNCTAD/ITCD/TSB/5

56. With a view to supporting developing countries in attracting investment flows, particularly foreign direct investment, UNCTAD carries out investment policy reviews and provides advice and training to individual Governments and their investment promotion agencies.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNHCR follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNHCR:
Para. 19: Enhancing international cooperation, including burden-sharing, and coordination of humanitarian assistance;
Para. 20: Creating and improving conditions to allow for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the voluntary and safe return of internally displaced persons;
Para. 23: : Considering measures to minimize the social and humanitarian impact of sanctions;
Para. 69: Promoting measures to prevent illegal trafficking and transport of migrants and trafficking in persons;
Para. 70: Finalizing the trafficking and smuggling protocols of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
Para. 74: Strengthening organizations and mechanisms working for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts;
Para. 75: Promoting social integration in post-conflict management strategies and activities;

9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

57. The goals and commitments related to refugees adopted at the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th special session of the General Assembly are directly linked to the mandate of UNHCR to provide international protection to refugees and other persons. As such, UNHCR’s ongoing efforts towards finding durable solutions to the problems of refugees and returnees contribute to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Further Initiatives for Social Development.

58. UNHCR have an important role in ensuring the voluntary repatriation of refugees with dignity and safety. Developing countries have been supported in building capacities to receive back their citizens. In order for refugees’ return to be sustainable, repatriation measures must be accompanied by assistance to rebuild shattered infrastructure and revive the economic life of the community. In cooperation with the Organization for African Unity (OAU), a Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) to address the refugee problem in Africa has been elaborated. The Plan contains a range of actions to create adequate conditions for the durable voluntary repatriation and reintegration of refugees.

59. UNHCR promotes international cooperation between States to ensure that sufficient resources are available to host countries to uphold their responsibilities in the protection and security of refugees. As regards cooperation with countries in Africa, the CIP contains measures to implement the principle of burden-sharing and equal treatment of refugees to be carried out by OAU and UNHCR in the next two years. At the global level, burden-sharing is one of the central themes of the Global Consultations on International Protection, initiated in December 2000.

60. In the context of the UN Development Group, UNHCR has initiated discussions with development agencies of the UN system on the socio-economic impact of large refugee populations on host regions and countries. There is a need to close the gap between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development. UNHCR supports efforts to strengthen links between international agencies involved in humanitarian and development activities to overcome institutional and funding disparities and to develop strategies with a regional dimension, including coordinated post-conflict social integration efforts. UNHCR is also involved in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Brahimi Report⁵ to enhance UN peace-building and peacekeeping capacity and improve coordination among political, military, developmental and humanitarian components of UN peace operations.

⁵ Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809).

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for WFP follow-up action or relevant to the work of WFP:
Para. 19: Enhancing international cooperation, including burden-sharing, and coordination of humanitarian assistance;
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 30: Improving national capacity to address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity at the household level;
Para. 75: Promoting social integration in post-conflict management strategies and activities;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;
Para. 111: Calling upon WFP and other concerned agencies to strengthen food-for-work activities in low-income food-deficit countries;

10. World Food Programme (WFP)

61. WFP supports initiatives for and commitments to social development by focusing assistance on activities that contribute to the eradication of hunger and poverty. Food aid is crucial in large-scale emergencies and refugee crises, but it is also an important instrument for development assistance. It is most effective as an enabler of development for marginalized, hungry and poor people.

62. WFP’s development activities support social and economic development, rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and technical assistance to help developing countries establish or improve their own food assistance programmes. As outlined in its Enabling Development Policy, WFP promotes the enabling role of food aid by focusing programme objectives on: enabling young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; enabling poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; making it possible for poor families to gain and preserve assets; mitigating the effects of natural disasters; and enabling households that depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.

63. In the context of social integration in post-conflict situations, WFP carries out Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO). PRRO increasingly gives attention to the enhancement of coping mechanisms, using community-level relief, development committees and women’s organizations, as key means of providing a flexible approach to the move from relief to recovery activities.

64. The promotion of education by enabling poor or food-insecure families to send their children to school is another priority of WFP. The primary goals of WFP’s school feeding efforts include increasing access and attendance, improving health and nutrition and improving learning. A common theme throughout WFP’s education activities is the reduction of inequalities between women and men.

65. As part of efforts to integrate the health dimension into WFP programmes and policies, WFP food aid is increasingly focused on measures to tackle early malnutrition and to intercept hunger before it is passed on to a new generation. This is a unique function of food assistance and presents a major challenge to WFP.

66. WFP is heavily engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in connection with natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies and is often cited as “the logistics arm of the United Nations”. WFP also promotes national institution building and local capacity building in disaster preparedness, emergency management, logistics, vulnerability analysis mapping and coordination of international field relief efforts.

67. As the largest provider of grant assistance to sub-Saharan Africa within the UN system, WFP continues to play an important role in promoting economic and social development in Africa. WFP’s activities provide considerable support to the development of local and regional food markets, agro- and transport industry and the improvement of infrastructure through food-for-work and food-for-training activities.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNFPA follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNFPA:
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 64/65: Supporting research and exchanging national experience and best practice in policies and programmes on ageing to contribute to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;
Para. 84: Ensuring women's and girls' rights to education and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health as well as adequate, affordable and universally accessible health care;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;
Para. 122: Encouraging 25 African countries most affected by HIV/AIDS to adopt time-bound targets for reducing infection levels;

11. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

68. UNFPA is giving special attention to the implementation of the recommendations of the special session at country level through its country programmes and through the technical assistance provided by its nine sub-regional Country Technical Services Teams, in accordance with its mandate and in areas linked to its responsibilities as lead agency for implementation of ICPD+5 as well as with its activities as Chair of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All. UNFPA is working collaboratively with key UN system and other relevant partners in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the special session, particularly in the following areas: Reproductive Health, including Family Planning and Sexual Health; HIV/AIDS; Adolescents and Youth; Education for All; Ageing; Migration; Environment; Gender Mainstreaming; Human Rights; Poverty; Basic Social Services for All; and Resource Flows.

69. In the area of reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, UNFPA continues to support the strengthening and integration of services providing care to women, and, increasingly, men. Participatory planning approaches are being used to support providers in identifying problems and implementing solutions to better meet clients' needs, demands and rights. Within the Fund's policy framework, prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, continues to be an integral component of reproductive health. The elements of prevention in UNFPA-supported country programmes include: advocacy, education and information in support of HIV/AIDS prevention; provision of voluntary counseling and information on testing for HIV status; improving access to and use of condoms; enhancing the technical capacity of reproductive health care providers and counselors; integrating STI/HIV prevention into reproductive health programmes; and disseminating information on HIV/AIDS in training programmes for teachers, media personnel and others. UNFPA maintains a close working relationship with UNAIDS, including in areas such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission; the International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS in Africa; enhancing access to care and drugs; and in implementing innovative approaches for preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS among young people.

70. 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 operationalize 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.

71. UNFPA focuses on three ultimate goals in the area of ageing: to promote the well-being of people throughout the lifespan; to ensure that, in later years, every individual has the opportunity to live as full a life as possible; and to strengthen national capacity of developing countries to help meet the needs of older populations. The Fund concentrates on advocacy, technical assistance, training and research and is actively involved in the preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

72. UNFPA's work in the area of international migration focuses on research, training, advocacy, data collection and capacity building. UNFPA also plays a major role in providing assistance to meet the reproductive health needs of women in emergency and refugee

situations through the UNFPA Emergency Relief Operations. The Fund seeks to foster a global network of institutions that undertake data collection and research activities in international migration, are relevant to policy development and support global analyses of international migration.

73. UNFPA advocates protection of the sexual and reproductive health rights of men and women. 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.

74. UNFPA supports initiatives and programmes to address the special needs of indigenous peoples, including the development of culturally sensitive reproductive health information and education programmes and services that respond to their needs and respect their rights. To contribute to the preparation of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, UNFPA will organize an International Round Table on Indigenous Peoples and Reproductive Health and Gender in June 2001.

75. In the context of poverty eradication, 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. Countries with the highest population growth rates also tend to be those most afflicted by poverty. In turn, high population growth rates are partly a result of failure to meet the large unmet demand for reproductive health information and services, and partly a failure of Governments to provide basic education.

Specialized agencies and related organizations

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for ILO follow-up action or relevant to the work of ILO:
Para. 29: Sharing best practices in social protection systems;
Para. 33: Ensuring social dialogue through effective representation of workers' and employers' organizations;
Para. 35: Supporting the ILO programme on decent work;
Para. 36: Elaborating a coherent and coordinated international strategy on employment;
Para. 37: Exchanging best practices in the field of employment policies;
Para. 38: Ratifying and implementing ILO conventions on basic workers' rights;
Para. 39: Ensuring effective and comprehensive action to eliminate harmful child labour;
Para. 41: Encouraging the private sector to respect basic worker rights as reaffirmed in the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
Para. 42: Improving collection and analysis of basic employment data, including agricultural and informal sectors;
Para. 44: Helping Member States to extend support measures to informal sector workers;
Para. 49: Promoting gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination in the labour market;

12. International Labour Office (ILO)

76. The outcome document of the special session, Further Initiatives for Social Development, provides strong support for the views and goals of the ILO, including in particular the explicit endorsement of ILO's Decent Work Programme. The special session reinforced the decent work agenda as a means of creating employment, reducing poverty, promoting social development and giving effect to a more integrated approach to economic and social policies in the context of globalization.

77. The positive outcome of the special session, seen from the perspective of ILO, is largely due to the active involvement of the Organization, as well as ILO constituents from all three groups, in the preparatory process and in the special session itself. Many of the initiatives in the Geneva outcome document that call for follow-up action by ILO are already incorporated into its regular programme of work, which will form the basis of the Organization's response to the special session. ILO's overall follow-up activities are organized around four major areas of activity: the convening of a World Employment Forum; the elaboration of an international strategy on employment; operationalizing the decent work programme at the country level; and ensuring that ILO core objectives are at the centre of national and international development and poverty eradication strategies.

78. The World Employment Forum, to be convened in November 2001, will be of particular importance for the implementation of the outcome of the special session. According to a decision of the Governing Body of ILO, the overall objective of the Forum will be "to review outstanding issues in the employment field and seek new and innovative approaches to the creation of more and better quality of jobs, consistent with the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development."

79. ILO will put focus on the international dimensions of employment, including in particular the need to elaborate a coordinated international strategy on employment, the importance of which was recognized by the special session. This work will be supported by activities at the national level where ILO assists countries in formulating strategies to implement the goals of the special session, as well as in carrying out Country Employment Policy Reviews (CEPRs). CEPRs being conducted in 2000-2001 will provide an input to the elaboration of an international strategy on employment to be discussed at the World Employment Forum.

80. The Director-General of ILO has launched an initiative to operationalize decent work at the country level, which will involve integrated cross-sectoral activities in selected countries.

81. The special session highlighted the close link between poverty eradication and employment promotion as an integral component of all development strategies. Through the implementation of the decent work agenda, ILO will work to ensure that poverty eradication and employment remain at the centre of the policies and programmes of the international community. ILO will collaborate with the World Bank on the elaboration of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) to ensure that decent work objectives are taken adequately into account.

82. To further advance an integrated policy approach to the implementation of the special session, the ILO Working Group on the Social Dimensions of Globalization at its next session will discuss a framework for studies on policies to achieve a wider sharing of the benefits of globalization.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for FAO follow-up action or relevant to the work of FAO:

Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;

Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;

Para. 30: Improving national capacity to address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity at the household level;

13. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

83. The outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the Summit and those of the World Food Summit, held in Rome in 1996, are complementary, in particular regarding the target of reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015 and the implementation of pro-poor growth strategies.

84. The commitment to poverty reduction and elimination of hunger, as initially adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, was reinforced by the adoption of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which set out the target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half the 1996 level by 2015. The Plan of Action stresses the importance of the role of improved institutions to ensure food security, combat poverty and promote the development of human and natural resources.

85. FAO supports policies and strategies to increase access by the poor to capital, technical knowledge and other land-based resources through decentralization, provision of resources and assistance to local or village institutions, and strengthening the capacity of farmers' and rural people's organizations to participate in local, regional and national decision-making processes on the design and implementation of rural development policies and management of natural resources.

86. As follow-up to the mandates adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, the special session and the World Food Summit, FAO provides assistance to countries in implementing projects to improve rural institutions and services and promote sustainable rural livelihoods; in developing policies, best practices and tools for land tenure to facilitate access to land, ensure user rights and improve land markets; in creating mechanisms for conflict resolution to improve access to land for the landless through resettlement, leasing and other land reform measures; and in designing strategies for the promotion of secure and gainful employment and equal access to productive resources such as land, water and credit.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNESCO follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNESCO:
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 27: Giving priority to investments in education and health, social protection and basic social services;
Para. 59: Ensuring that education at all levels promotes all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
Para. 62: Encouraging UN agencies to take effective programmatic measures for engaging indigenous people;
Para. 90: Encouraging new action at the international level, including the feasibility of proclaiming a United Nations literacy decade, to support national efforts to achieve universal access to basic education and primary health services for all by the year 2015;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;

14. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

87. As part of its response to the outcome of the special session, particularly the international target of reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015, UNESCO’s Executive Board recently adopted the UNESCO Strategy on Development and Poverty Eradication. The strategy will be the most important tool of UNESCO to implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Further Initiatives for Social Development and will be carried out through an integrated approach coordinated by the Sector of Social and Human Sciences and involving all programmes of the Organization.

88. In addition, the Director-General has proposed that poverty eradication be one of the two cross-cutting priorities of UNESCO for the next Medium Term Strategy (2002-2007) with focus on three major lines of action: empowering the poor and building capacities; assisting Member States to achieve international development objectives by maximizing their capacities to design pro-poor policies; and engaging, through advocacy vis-à-vis empowered actors and groups, a deeper commitment to poverty eradication and a better understanding of the ways in which the persistence of poverty violates human rights and undermines the welfare of all.

89. This strategy on poverty will be organized around the following themes: operationalizing rights-based approaches to poverty; understanding the costs of poverty; building social cohesion and fighting exclusion; empowering people through education and training; science and technology for poverty reduction and development; and impact assessment, monitoring and indicators. In this context, follow-up to the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in April 2000, will be of utmost importance.

90. UNESCO will seek to play a key role as a catalyst for Education for All (EFA), as a promoter of partnership and collaboration, and as a coordinator to ensure that comprehensive, thorough and continuous follow-up activity takes place. UNESCO has prepared an Outline of the Action Plan for the Follow-up to the Dakar Forum, which includes the following strategies and actions:

- At the country level, UNESCO assists countries in preparing national EFA plans. National EFA plans need to be integrated into existing sector-wide approaches and supported by the UN Common Country Assessments, UN Development Assistance Frameworks and the World Bank/IMF Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;
- At the regional level, UNESCO is in the process of identifying networks most conducive to furthering EFA goals with emphasis on monitoring and reporting progress; collecting, documenting and promoting best practices; strengthening capacity at the sub-regional level; and promoting political dialogue and exchange between EFA partners;
- At the international level, UNESCO has convened the first meeting of the Working Group on Education for All (22-24 November 2000) with participation of developing countries and countries in transition; bilateral, multilateral and regional agencies; civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and private foundations; as well as OECD and G8. Part of this technical group’s deliberations was devoted to the presentation and discussion of inter-agency initiatives through Dakar follow-up. The High-level Flexible Group will meet before the first anniversary of Dakar. It will bring together high-ranking and influential individuals, including representatives of developing countries, donor countries that participate in financing basic education and multilateral

aid agencies, with the purpose of advocating for EFA at the highest level, mobilizing resources and providing advice for achieving EFA goals.

91. In the area of human rights education and the promotion of tolerance, peace, cultural diversity and solidarity, UNESCO is actively involved in a range of activity, including preparation of an education kit for schools containing teaching aids on these issues. UNESCO has published a “Manual on Human Rights for Universities” and a publication entitled “Human Rights: Questions and Answers”, which has been translated into more than 30 languages. A cycle of regional conferences is being held to encourage the adoption and implementation of national plans for human rights education.

92. UNESCO is undertaking extensive consultations with Governments, civil society institutions and international agencies on the proposed United Nations Literacy Decade. Such a decade would advocate a renewed vision for literacy for all within the context of global efforts towards Education for All. A draft action plan for the United Nations literacy decade will be submitted, through ECOSOC, to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for WHO follow-up action or relevant to the work of WHO:
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 27: Using health policies as an instrument for poverty eradication, along the lines of the WHO strategy on poverty and health;
Para. 96: Ensure that infectious and parasitic diseases neither continue to take their devastating toll nor impede economic and social progress;
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;
Para. 100: Mobilizing commercial enterprises to invest in research aimed at providing affordable remedies for diseases;
Para. 101: Recognizing the importance of access to essential medicines at affordable prices and the contribution of intellectual property rights;
Para. 102: Analyzing the consequences of agreements on trade in health services;
Para. 103: Monitoring and analyzing the pharmaceutical and health implications of relevant international agreements;
Para. 104: Integrating the health dimension into policies and programmes;

15. World Health Organization (WHO)

93. From the perspective of WHO, the special session took forward the role of health as a central element of international development policy. Moving beyond the narrow perspective on health as a matter of delivering basic health services to provide a safety net for the poor employed at the Summit in 1995, the Further Initiatives for Social Development adopted at Geneva acknowledged:

- Health policy as an instrument to be used proactively for poverty reduction;
- That protecting and improving the health status of the poor can also contribute to broader economic and social development outcomes, and that the organizations of the UN system should work with WHO to integrate health dimensions into their policies and programmes; and
- The need to better manage the forces of globalization to ensure that poor people and countries can benefit from improved access to health goods and services.

94. In some countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB constitute major obstacles to development. WHO is currently developing a capacity to stimulate an unprecedented mobilization of national and international efforts to scale up action to contribute to poverty reduction through reducing the illness and premature mortality experienced by the poor. There are ten key objectives in this effort: (i) mobilizing additional funds for health; (ii) attracting new donors; (iii) influencing resource allocation within and between countries; (iv) using all channels of proven effectiveness; (v) increasing people's control over the means of improving their health; (vi) establishing innovative approaches for channeling and managing resources at country and international levels; (vii) monitoring effectiveness; (viii) creating a stronger link between performance and funding; (ix) designing incentives to influence research and development; and (x) influencing the reform and implementation of international agreements on trade as they related to essential drugs and technologies.

95. WHO is engaged in several public/private partnerships with the objective of mobilizing commercial enterprises to invest in research aimed at providing affordable remedies for diseases that particularly afflict people in developing countries. The Joint WHO/ International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA) Working Group on Research and Development for Drugs Needed for Neglected Diseases works to re-engage industry in research and development of new drugs to treat a range of neglected infectious diseases which are widely prevalent in developing countries. New drugs for malaria and TB have been identified as priority needs and two prototype public/private ventures have been created: the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (GATB). In addition, WHO is one of the founding agencies of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), which brings together multilateral agencies, Governments, foundations and industry in a common effort to revitalize immunizations worldwide and support low-income countries to improve their health systems.

96. WHO's Medicines Strategy 2000-2003 aims to help countries develop sound national drugs policies, to improve drug regulation at national and international levels, and to improve use of essential drugs by prescribers, dispensers and the general public. Four enabling factors need to be in place to increase and ensure sustainable access: rational selection based on the development of a national drugs list; affordable prices for Governments as well as for health care providers and consumers; sustainable financing through equitable funding mechanisms

such as Government revenues and social health insurance; and reliable supply systems incorporating a mix of public and private supply services.

97. WHO is engaged in work on health and international trade in the following areas: informing and orienting trade and health officials – through technical briefings and training workshops - on current issues from both a trade and public health perspective, in collaboration with WTO; promoting interest and capacities for protecting public health in trade agreements; collaborating with UNCTAD to integrate a health protection dimension into capacity building programmes; and improving knowledge and awareness of health policy-makers. WHO has also undertaken efforts to integrate the health dimension into the policies and programmes of organizations of the UN system through enhanced collaboration within the United Nations Development Group as well as bilaterally with the World Bank, ILO, UNRISD, UNECA and others.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for World Bank follow-up action or relevant to the work of the World Bank:

Para. 8: Instituting systems for assessing and monitoring the social impact of macro-economic policies;
Para. 13: Reducing the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence;
Para. 14: Ensuring transparency and accountability of the international financial institutions to promote social development goals;
Para. 16: Endorsing the speedy implementation of the Cologne debt-relief initiative and the enhanced HIPC initiative;
Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;
Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;
Para. 29: Sharing best practices on social protection systems;
Para. 74: Strengthening organizations and mechanisms working for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;
Para. 97: Enhancing national measures to prevent and protect against HIV/AIDS and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS;
Para. 100: Mobilizing commercial enterprises to invest in research aimed at providing affordable remedies for diseases;

16. The World Bank

98. World Bank activities and initiatives in connection with the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the special session particularly relate to the following areas:

99. Social impact assessments: The use of social assessment by the World Bank has increased significantly in recent years. Tools and techniques for social assessment, which can be used in adjustment programmes and poverty reduction strategies, are being developed and enhanced. In particular, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) call for social impact analysis as part of the poverty analysis. Not only do social assessments help projects achieve better social development outcomes, they also correlate strongly with overall quality ratings for project supervision and quality at entry.

100. International financial architecture: The World Bank’s role in strengthening the international financial architecture includes ensuring that developing country perspectives are brought to bear in discussions on international norms and governance; helping developing countries integrate into the international economic and financial system; and diagnosing the social and structural obstacles to successful development, as a basis for World Bank assistance. The Bank supports international crisis prevention measures such as improving transparency and disclosure by all market participants; removing regulatory bias in international lending; supporting better risk management by highly leveraged institutions and their counterparts; developing, disseminating and supporting implementation of international standards and codes; enhancing surveillance; increasing private sector involvement in crisis prevention; and mobilizing official contingent financing. In the context of crisis resolution, international measures include strengthening capacity and instruments for official financial support; creating a framework and modalities for private sector involvement in crisis resolution; and establishing policies and safeguards for lending into arrears.

101. Disclosure: The Further Initiatives document urges transparency and accountability of the international financial institutions to promote social development goals in their policies and programmes. In this regard, the World Bank is currently engaging in public consultations on a review of its policy on information disclosure. Using feedback from consultations and ongoing analyses, the World Bank intends to develop options for going forward with a proposal to the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors for further improvements in its disclosure of information.

102. Debt relief: The World Bank has been at the forefront in the implementation of the Cologne debt-relief initiative and the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, pursuing the principle that funds saved should be allocated to social development. As of 20 December 2000, 17 countries have reached the decision point under the enhanced HIPC Initiative receiving debt relief packages amounting to some \$20 billion in net present value terms and work was progressing favorably to meet the objective of having agreements in place for at least 20 countries by the end of 2000, amounting to more than \$34 billion in debt relief. The HIPC Trust Fund has obtained \$2.5 billion in bilateral contributions and pledges from about 20 countries.

103. Poverty eradication: The key principles underlying the Bank’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) framework are that poverty reduction strategies should be country-driven, oriented to achieving concrete results in terms of poverty reduction, comprehensive in

Para. 101: Recognizing the importance of access to essential medicines at affordable prices and the contribution of intellectual property rights;

Para. 129: Ensuring that adjustment programmes do not lead to decreasing economic activity or cuts in social spending;

Para. 142: Improving existing mechanisms for helping to stabilize commodity export earnings;

looking at cross-sectoral determinants of poverty outcomes, informed by a long-term perspective, and providing the context for action by various development partners. The PRSPs will form the basis for World Bank (IDA) and IMF concessional assistance to low-income countries, including debt relief under the HIPC Initiative. In order for the country to achieve its poverty reduction objectives, it will be necessary to integrate the priority actions needed to reduce poverty with the macro-economic framework and structural, financial and social policies necessary to stimulate growth.

104. Social protection: Social protection is a young, but very dynamic portfolio of the World Bank. In 2000, the Bank prepared a social protection strategy paper that aims to draw lessons learned in the sector from the recent financial crises. The paper emphasizes the need for a social risk management structure in anticipation of future crises, both at individual and national levels, and efforts to ensure adequate safety nets for poor people.

105. Education: The World Bank is placing greater emphasis on primary education and is working with its member countries to open the doors to those previously excluded from education, particularly girls, the rural poor and linguistic minorities. As a consequence of the World Education Forum in Dakar, the World Bank is hosting a joint secretariat for agencies seeking to promote the Forum's core goals. Rapid and substantial improvement of children's enrollment, achievement and retention rates in basic education are central objectives. Other goals include significant improvement in basic education quality and increased enrollment and retention rates for girls.

106. Health: The World Bank is strengthening its support for expanded childhood immunization and looking into new incentives to stimulate development of vaccines against key infectious killers in poor countries—like HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. The World Bank's strategy includes policy dialogue with Governments on public health priorities; expanded lending for immunization infrastructure and other health priorities; and participation in international initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and closer collaboration with the private sector.

107. Structural adjustment: The World Bank has launched a retrospective study of adjustment lending that will examine, among other issues, the policy and practice of addressing social, poverty and environmental concerns in adjustment lending. The retrospective will take stock of recent developments in the trends, quality and practice of adjustment lending.

108. Resources: The Bank supports measures to mobilize additional resources for social development, inter alia through the stabilization of commodity prices. The World Bank has recently convened an International Task Force (ITF) on Commodity Risk Management in Developing Countries to explore new, market-based approaches to help developing countries better manage their vulnerability to commodity price volatility. The ITF brings together a broad representation of international institutions, producer and consumer organizations, and private sector entities. The ITF has reached a consensus on a proposal for a market-based commodity price insurance mechanism with price floors for producers and price ceilings for consumers.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for IMF follow-up action or relevant to the work of IMF:
Para. 8: Instituting systems for assessing and monitoring the social impact of macro-economic policies;
Para. 11: Improving access to the global trading system through, <i>inter alia</i> , furthering the process of accession to WTO and providing technical assistance by WTO, UNCTAD, ITC;
Para. 13: Reducing the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence;
Para. 14: Ensuring transparency and accountability of the international financial institutions to promote social development goals;
Para. 16: Endorsing the speedy implementation of the Cologne debt-relief initiative and the enhanced HIPC initiative;
Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;
Para. 29: Sharing best practices in social protection systems;
Para. 32: Re-assessing macro-economic policies to balance goals of employment generation and poverty reduction with low inflation rates;
Para. 33: Ensuring social dialogue through effective representation of workers' and employers' organizations;
Para. 64/65: Supporting research and exchanging national experience and best practice in policies and programmes on ageing to contribute to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;
Para. 92/93: Reaffirming the Framework for Action for education for all;

17. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

109. The activities of the International Monetary Fund to carry out the further actions and initiatives adopted at the special session are organized around four major themes: crisis prevention, crisis management, social policies in IMF-supported adjustment programmes and social policies in IMF member countries.

110. Crisis prevention: IMF seeks to reduce the negative social and economic impacts of international financial turbulence through measures to strengthen the international financial architecture, including by improving the functioning of domestic and international financial markets, public resource management, data transparency and by providing temporary financial assistance, with a view to enhancing market stability and private sector confidence in member countries. IMF supports countries, *inter alia* through technical assistance in cooperation with the World Bank, in implementing internationally agreed standards and codes of good practices to strengthen institutions, enhance transparency and improve market stability.

111. A central element in achieving international financial stability is enhancing national capacities and strengthening domestic capital markets. The IMF, in cooperation with the World Bank, carries out Financial Sector Assessment Programmes in member countries to evaluate strengths, vulnerabilities and risks to financial systems. IMF's technical assistance in promoting macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth through capacity building, including strengthening public expenditure management, is currently under review. Recognizing that short-term capital flows can pose a risk to financial stability, IMF supports policies that discourage volatile short-term speculative capital movements while not harming longer-term investments, including transparency in financial markets and good governance in financial institutions of both creditor and debtor countries.

112. Crisis management: In instances where financial crises do occur, IMF is heavily engaged in crisis management activities to mitigate their adverse effects. IMF programmes emphasize the need to stabilize the economy and to avoid undue contraction of activity during periods of financial crisis as well as increasingly to protect basic social services and social safety nets. To assess the social impact of adjustment programmes, IMF primarily relies on World Bank data as well as systematic collection of data on Government social expenditures.

113. Social policies in IMF-supported adjustment programmes: Over the past decade, IMF has increasingly encouraged Governments to integrate social policy objectives into their reform efforts. Between 1985 and 1998, 32 low-income countries that received IMF support have made progress in raising social spending on education and health care.

114. At the 1999 World Bank-IMF annual meeting, it was agreed to make poverty reduction the central goal of adjustment programmes. The existing Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) was replaced by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), and IMF country programmes are now guided by Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, which integrate macro-economic, structural and social policies, developed by Governments with participation of civil society and donors. As of December 2000, the IMF Executive Board has approved PRSP-supported programmes in 17 countries (full PRSP: Burkina Faso and Uganda; Interim-PRSP: Albania, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Tanzania

Para. 129: Ensuring that adjustment programmes do not lead to decreasing economic activity or cuts in social spending;

Para. 140: Establish guidelines for policies aimed at generating domestic revenue for social policies and programmes;

Para. 141: Supporting efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing corruption, bribery, money laundering and illegal transfer of funds;

Para. 142: Improving existing mechanisms for helping to stabilize commodity export earnings

and Zambia), which explicitly target increased enrollment and literacy towards achieving education for all and improved access to health services.

115. Support for member countries' social policies: IMF programmes and policy advice are based on the principle that poverty reduction, high levels of employment and pro-poor growth cannot be achieved without a consistent macro-economic and structural reform policy framework. To assist countries in generating domestic resources for social development, including the development of broad, efficient and well administered tax systems, IMF advises countries on the design of tax policy and provides technical assistance on tax and customs administration to reduce the incidence of tax evasion. IMF also provides assistance to countries by sharing best practices on social protection systems through the provision of policy advice, research and training, with focus on maintaining adequate protection levels during financial crises and securing the sustainability of social insurance programmes in the face of growing ageing populations.

116. The IMF and the World Bank have taken steps to accelerate the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Under the enhanced HIPC Initiative, it is expected that eligible countries on average will have their debt stocks reduced by two thirds. Other international initiatives undertaken by IMF include:

- Combating the use of tax shelters and tax havens by conducting assessments of the financial supervision and vulnerabilities of offshore financial centers, as part of international efforts to mobilize additional resources for social development;
- Enhancing the transparency of IMF operations and conducting a major review of IMF's quota system with a view to improving the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in decision-making processes.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for UNIDO follow-up action or relevant to the work of UNIDO:

Para. 11: Improving access to the global trading system through, *inter alia*, furthering the process of accession to WTO and providing technical assistance by WTO, UNCTAD, ITC;

Para. 25: Reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015;

Para. 28: Developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies;

Para. 103: Monitoring and analyzing the pharmaceutical and health implications of relevant international agreements;

18. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

117. UNIDO attaches great importance to social development and has incorporated the goals and targets of the Summit and the special session into its main activities. In line with its Business Plan, UNIDO emphasizes sustainable industrial development while maintaining a competitive economy, environmentally friendly industrial development and productive employment. While the outcome of the special session makes broad references to the role of industry in the promotion of social development, the document does not fully reflect the important contribution of industrial development in the promotion of poverty alleviation and other social objectives, including the significance of productive sectors such as industry and agriculture.

118. The contribution of industrial development and of UNIDO to the outcome of the special session is particularly pertinent in the following areas: overcoming marginalization of countries in the development process; creating an enabling policy environment for sustainable development; generating direct and especially indirect employment; promoting small and medium-scale enterprises; upgrading micro-enterprises and the informal sector; enhancing agro-industrial development; promoting rural industrialization and regional industrial development; fostering social responsibility of enterprises; enhancing the role of women in manufacturing and strengthening the role of industry in Africa and the Least Developed Countries. UNIDO also plays a role in improving access of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the global trading system; developing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies and monitoring and analyzing the pharmaceutical and health implications of relevant international trade agreements.

New initiatives in the Geneva outcome document specifically calling for WTO follow-up action or relevant to the work of WTO:
Para. 11: Improving access to the global trading system through, <i>inter alia</i> , furthering the process of accession to WTO and providing technical assistance by WTO, UNCTAD, ITC;
Para. 101: Recognizing the importance of access to essential medicines at affordable prices and the contribution of intellectual property rights;
Para. 102: Analyzing the consequences of agreements on trade in health services;
Para. 107: Supporting programmes to assist Africa/LDCs to take full advantage of the multilateral trading regime, <i>inter alia</i> through WTO, ITC, UNCTAD;

19. World Trade Organization (WTO)

119. One of the top priorities of WTO is the full integration of developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), into the multilateral trading system. WTO supports measures to improve market access for products of the LDCs. Various steps have also been taken to assist LDCs in this regard, including through the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance for Least Developed Countries, a joint effort of WTO, IMF, the World Bank and UN agencies.

120. In WTO's Council for Trade-related Intellectual Property (TRIPS), several reviews, some of which may lead to negotiations, are being carried out. For instance, the Council for TRIPS has been reviewing issues relating to biotechnology inventions and new plant varieties, considering the pros and cons of giving these inventions standard patent protection or the use of alternative methods such as those that deal more specifically with biodiversity issues and the protection of traditional knowledge. On health issues, WTO is working closely with WHO at the secretariat level and participates in WHO's Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control. WTO and WHO have also conducted joint technical briefings on issues relating to public health and trade.