

organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, in their respective activities for the provision of infrastructure services, to encourage private-sector cost-effective involvement in the efficient construction, use and maintenance of infrastructure;

4. *Looks forward* to its resumed session in March and April 1996, during which it will examine public administration and development, and address the issues contained in its agenda, including the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development;

5. *Welcomes* the continuation of work on illicit payments in relevant international forums, including the United Nations, taking account of progress already achieved on that issue;

6. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session of 1996, consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure for the continuation of the work with a view to completing the draft international agreement on illicit payments, including consideration of the draft at the substantive session of 1996 of the Council, and recommends that the Council report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", a sub-item entitled "Business and development".

*96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995*

50/107. Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992, 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994, all related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, in which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 49/110, in which it requested that a draft programme on the preparations for and observance of the Year be elaborated at an early date,

Emphasizing the necessity for Governments to focus their efforts and policies on addressing the root causes of poverty and providing for the basic needs of all,

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty requires ensuring universal access to economic opportunities that will promote sustainable livelihood and making basic efforts to facilitate access to opportunities and services for the disadvantaged, and that people living in poverty and vulnerable groups must be empowered through organization and social life, in particular in the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development,

Also recognizing that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for efforts to achieve

a higher quality of life for all people, and that equitable social development, which empowers people living in poverty to utilize environmental resources sustainably, is a necessary foundation for sustainable development,

Stressing the necessity to promote and implement policies to create a supportive external economic environment, through, *inter alia*, cooperation in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, trade liberalization, mobilization and/or the provision of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable and mobilized in a way that maximizes the availability of such resources for sustainable development, using all available funding sources and mechanisms, enhanced financial stability and ensuring increased access of developing countries to global markets, productive investments and technologies, and appropriate knowledge,

Also stressing that the United Nations system should play a central role in enhancing support and assistance for developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,⁷³ as well as in the major United Nations conferences organized since 1990 towards the eradication of poverty,

Emphasizing that empowering women will be a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women constitute a majority of people living in poverty and since they contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both their remunerated and their unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace,

Considering that the international community at the highest political level has already reached a consensus and committed itself to the eradication of poverty in recent major United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and in particular the World Summit for Social Development, which addressed the eradication of poverty as one of its three major themes, as well as the expected contributions from the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Food Summit,

Noting the importance attached at the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995, in considering measures towards the eradication of poverty,⁷⁴

Bearing in mind that Governments decided to adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, with the assistance, upon request, of the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions of the United Nations system, with broad participation of all sectors of civil society,

Recalling the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular paragraph 95 (c) of the Programme

⁷³See A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁷⁴See A/50/254-S/1995/501; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1995*, document S/1995/501.

of Action, in which it is recommended that the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, declare the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, following the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), with a view to considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the draft programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty⁷⁵ and on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,⁷⁶

Taking note of the Secretary-General's proposal in response to resolution 49/110, that the theme of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty be "Poverty can be and must be eradicated throughout the world",

I. OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (1996)

1. *Urges* all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996);

2. *Reaffirms* that the activities for the observance of the Year shall be undertaken at all levels, and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and multi-dimensional problem, and is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

3. *Decides* that the aim of the activities during the Year shall be to support a longer-term, sustained effort to implement fully and effectively the commitments, recommendations and measures undertaken, and the basic provisions already agreed upon at major United Nations conferences since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Social Development⁷⁵ and the Fourth World Conference on Women;⁷⁷

4. *Also decides* that, in order to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty, activities during the Year, at all levels, shall be guided, *inter alia*, by the following principles:

(a) A sustained, collective commitment and effort shall be mounted by Governments, local administrations, all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, business and corporations, supported by the international community, including the United Nations system and relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed, implemented and monitored with the full and effective participation of people living in poverty;

(b) Measures shall be adopted to ensure that people living in poverty have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to escape from poverty, and policies shall be adopted to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-rearing, widowhood, disability and old age;

(c) Access of all people living in poverty to basic social services shall be ensured, as well as their participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society;

(d) Women shall be given the economic and social opportunities to contribute to development, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed with a gender dimension;

(e) Targeted programmes shall be developed to meet the special needs of particular social and demographic groups, including young people, disadvantaged older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of persons;

(f) The international community shall provide continued and effective support to broad-based development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries;

(g) The efforts of the United Nations system to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty should be well coordinated in order to ensure that activities of relevant organizations are complementary and cost-effective;

5. *Recommends* that all States, as set out in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, undertake the following, preferably by 1996:

(a) Develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty;

(b) Elaborate the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty;

(c) Formulate or strengthen as a matter of urgency, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context;

(d) Increase public efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce overall poverty substantially by, *inter alia*, formulating or strengthening and implementing national poverty eradication plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels;

(e) Attach particular attention in the context of national plans, to employment creation as a means of eradicating poverty, while also giving appropriate consideration to health and education, assigning a higher priority to basic social services, generating household income and promoting access to productive assets and economic opportunities;

6. *Urges* Governments to review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women living in poverty, in particular in rural areas, as set out in paragraph 58 of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women;⁷⁷

7. *Reaffirms* the agreement to a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

8. *Stresses* that, during the Year and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by being fully involved in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies and programmes for the eradication

⁷⁵A/50/551.

⁷⁶A/50/396.

⁷⁷See A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I (Beijing Declaration) and annex II (Platform for Action).

of poverty and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

9. *Notes* the activities for the observance of the Year planned by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General,⁷⁷ and invites them to take further initiatives;

10. *Urges* multilateral financial and development institutions to intensify and accelerate their investments in social sectors and poverty eradication programmes;

11. *Takes note* of decision 95/22 of 16 June 1995 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund,⁶¹ in which the Board decided to give poverty elimination the overriding priority in Programme activities and to concentrate its programmes on the most needy regions and countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially in Africa;

12. *Invites* all relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, in order to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and meeting the basic human needs of all;

13. *Welcomes* the recent decision taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish task forces on different aspects of the follow-up to United Nations major conferences with a view to considering issues related to the eradication of poverty;⁷⁸

14. *Takes note* of the decision taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to establish an eradication of poverty fund for the duration of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in order to help developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, in the elaboration of national plans during 1996 to combat poverty;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all relevant measures to arrange for the wide and effective dissemination of the present resolution and the programme for the observance of the Year, and in this regard invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups of civil society to give the necessary attention to the observance of the Year;

II. FIRST UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (1997-2006)

16. *Proclaims* the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

17. *Urges* all Governments and the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue effectively the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences related to the eradication of poverty, in particular the World Summit for Social Development;

18. *Welcomes* the arrangements, within the agreed appropriation level for the biennium 1996-1997, made by the Secretary-General regarding the entity within the Secretariat required to undertake the functions needed in support of the system-wide implementation of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, including activities of the Decade;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite those organs, organizations, programmes, funds and bodies of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms so that they may effectively implement the provisions, agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences relevant to the eradication of poverty;

20. *Recalls* the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council in the activities of the United Nations system towards eradication of poverty in the context of the coordinated follow-up of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

21. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the inter-governmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the Year and Decade, according to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

22. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure, in particular through the inter-agency task forces, the involvement and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for a full and effective implementation of the present resolution and to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, reports on activities envisaged in support of the Decade, taking into account the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

23. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, relevant international organizations and all other actors concerned with the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of the Decade, in particular with a view to translating all measures and recommendations into operational and concrete poverty eradication programmes and activities;

24. *Decides* that the trust fund of the World Summit for Social Development established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 to finance preparatory activities be continued and renamed the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the aim of supporting programmes, seminars and activities for the promotion of social development in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which include activities of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and invites all States to contribute to the Fund;

25. *Requests*, therefore, that the Secretary-General ensure that the outcomes of major United Nations conferences are disseminated as widely as possible and also to ensure that the documents related to the Year and the Decade, once adopted, are transmitted to all States, relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks in order to secure their active and substantial contributions;

26. *Recommends* that donor countries give greater priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis;

27. *Encourages* developing countries to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication pro-

⁷⁸See ACC/1995/23.

grammes and activities, and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, in one document, a progress report on action taken by the United Nations system to implement the programme for the observance of the Year and action envisaged to be taken in preparation for the Decade;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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50/108. United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993 and its decision 49/434 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation,

Reaffirming that one of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development is broad-based public participation in decision-making,

Acknowledging the relevance of opportunity and participation in the economic and social development agenda of the United Nations, as reflected in the various international conferences and agreements related to the follow-up of the Rio process,

Commending the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement,⁷⁹ adopted by the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 13 to 15 September 1995, which promotes opportunities for international and regional cooperation leading to growth with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance,

Noting that the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation;⁸⁰

2. *Takes note* of the Panel's contribution to the completion of an agenda for development and the follow-up arrangements to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to consider the insights and the recommendations of the Panel, particularly the sections of its report related to the efforts to be made for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries as an effective measure for promoting opportunity and participation in the context of national development and the economic and social development of all peoples;

4. *Invites* the Commission for Sustainable Development, in the overall framework of trade, environment and sustainable development, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development and small-scale fisheries development, to draw upon the work of the Panel;

⁷⁹A/50/475, annex, appendix II.

⁸⁰A/50/501, annex. See also A/50/501/Add.1.

5. *Invites* the Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with its mandate, to take into account the recommendations of the Panel in its work in 1996 in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;¹⁶

6. *Encourages* the relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, to increase their efforts to promote opportunity and participation, and to develop those concepts and incorporate them into their strategies and programmes, including regional and national workshops and seminars;

7. *Invites* Member States and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to these efforts;

8. *Encourages* support for the widest possible dissemination of the report of the Panel to the international community.

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50/109. World Food Summit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,⁸¹

Conscious that, despite the progress that has been made in ensuring global food availability, eight hundred million people remain chronically undernourished and about two hundred million children under age five suffer from protein and energy deficiencies,

Convinced of the urgent need, at the highest political level, to marshal the global consensus and commitment required for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all, through the adoption of concerted policies and a plan of action for implementation by Governments, international institutions and all sectors of civil society,

Recalling the contributions to international consensus achieved by the World Food Conference⁸² in 1974, the World Summit for Children⁸³ in 1990, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development⁸⁴ and the International Conference on Nutrition⁸⁵ in 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development⁸⁶ in 1994, and the World Summit for Social Development⁸⁷ and the Fourth World Conference on Women⁸⁸ in 1995, as well

⁸¹Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

⁸²See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3).

⁸³See First Call for Children (New York, United Nations Children's Fund, 1990).

⁸⁴See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annexes I-III.

⁸⁵See International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, December 1992, Final Report of the Conference. World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1992).

⁸⁶See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

⁸⁷See A/CONF.166/9.

⁸⁸See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.