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Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental
Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future

Report of the Secretary-General

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I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   In paragraph 11 (e) of its resolution 46/90 of 16 December 1991, the
General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its
forty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the
Economic and Social Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of
and follow-up action to the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social
Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (E/CONF.80/10, chap. III),
adopted by the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare
Policies and Programmes in 1987, as well as to resolution 46/90 itself.

2.   As at mid-November 1992, in response to requests by the
Secretary-General, information had been provided by 27 Governments 1/ and by
16 entities of the United Nations system which referred mostly to their own
activities but in some cases to national conditions monitored by them. 2/ The
information provided referred to the period from May 1991, the end date of the
period concerning which the Secretary-General previously reported on this
matter (A/46/414), to October 1992. The Secretary-General took into
consideration also the findings of recent expert meetings on issues directly
pertinent to implementation of the Guiding Principles, 3/ and drew upon the
continuously updated information contained in the Developmental Social Welfare
Database of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian
Affairs (UNCSDHA).

3.   The reviews of conditions set out in sections III to VI summarize the
information made available by these means in respect of national conditions.
Section VII summarizes information provided by entities within the United
Nations system concerning their activities which were expected to contribute
to the achievement of the conditions identified in the goals and objectives of
the Guiding Principles. Section II attempts to formulate general observations,
to draw conclusions and to make recommendations.

II.   CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.   On the basis of the information made available to the Secretary-General
by Governments and by entities within the United Nations system concerning
progress in the achievement of those goals and objectives set out in the
Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in
the Near Future, the following general observations can be made.

5.   Since the adoption of the Guiding Principles in 1987 and their
endorsement by the General Assembly in the same year (resolution 42/125), very
substantial changes in global and regional conditions have taken place: the
anticipated solution of global economic problems has not been achieved; there
has occurred an unexpected political and economic transformation in central
and eastern Europe; and environmental pressures are seen to be much more
urgent than realized. Consequently, although some progress has been reported
with respect to achievement of certain of the societal conditions set out in

the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles, and with respect to the situation in a few countries. In general actual conditions have not significantly improved and in many countries have deteriorated, often reaching catastrophic levels. The areas of concern identified by the Guiding Principles are in many ways more alarming now than in 1987; and implementation of many recommendations has encountered severe difficulties in spite of innovative approaches in many countries. Although their validity is still widely recognized, there is widespread concern that much greater efforts must be made if acceptable societal conditions are to be achieved within a reasonable period of time.

6. Analysis of global problems as well as of new conditions has suggested that a significant cause of their severity and persistence may have been an insufficient inclusion in societal strategies of adequately formulated social policies, sufficiently provided with the resources necessary for their implementation. There is some evidence that in all regions, and despite considerable variety in national conditions, there has been an important convergence in perceptions held by Governments, by entities in the United Nations system and by specialists, of the strategic value of social policy, and in particular an acknowledgement that there exists a need for an upward re-evaluation of its function within societal management. The convening of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in 1987 and its adoption of the Guiding Principles, as well as their endorsement by consensus by the General Assembly in the same year, and the reaffirmation by the Assembly of their continuing validity in 1989 and 1991 (resolutions 44/65 and 46/90), have formed part of a growing interest in emphasizing the contribution of social policies which resulted in the proposals for holding the World Summit for Social Development in 1995.

7. A central challenge now faced by most national economies is how to stimulate investment and bring into play unused resources, particularly human resources, in a sustainable manner. One means of meeting this challenge appears to consist of directing a much greater part of resources to the renewal and creation of social capital and infrastructure, as well as provision of basic services and essential commodities. Thus, emphasis on the solution of social problems could be a major stimulus to the global economy.

8. At the same time, incorporation of social policies in strategies of societal management is a prerequisite to achievement of many economic goals. The challenge is how to promote, facilitate and reward the contribution by all citizens - particularly by that significant proportion excluded from necessary opportunities and means - of their full potential for increasingly productive labour and for creative and entrepreneurial enterprise. The contribution of social policies is both to enhance the potential of such human resources and to help remove constraints upon its realization.

9. Individual self-confidence, equitable status, release from individual dysfunction and disadvantage, and stability but also resilience and flexibility in social associations, are all increasingly recognized as capable of contributing substantially to avoidance of conflict. Peace-keeping requires both preventive and rehabilitative social action.

/...

10. The transformation of human behaviour necessary to move global society towards full harmonization with the natural environment is likely only if adequate attention is given to social policy: sustainable development also requires both preventive and rehabilitative social action.

11. Attention to the condition and status of women, the effectiveness of family and other kinship-based support systems, the provision of social security and social assistance, and the removal of prejudice and conflict between sections of society are all areas where social policy may promote and facilitate those changes in the demographically significant behaviour of individuals which are essential if demographic problems are to be resolved.

12. It is increasingly acknowledged that the direct and immediate costs to society of containing and compensating for individual dysfunction are very large and exceed significantly the cost of policy interventions designed to prevent or resolve such dysfunction. Growing unemployment and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic are examples of new major costs. Economic inefficiency, political instability, civil war and international conflict, environmental degradation and demographic pressure are conditions to whose existence unresolved social problems contribute. They are all extremely costly to human society and greatly impede human progress: their resolution would bring enormous benefits to all. It is against these considerations that the costs involved in effective social policy intervention must be measured, given that this must be a prerequisite for their solution. Consequently, the solution of difficulties facing public finances by denying adequate funding to the social sector appears to be self-defeating, contributing only to a rapid accumulation of problems inevitably requiring ever more costly intervention from an increasingly weakened society.

13. Governments increasingly acknowledge that social policy must be given much higher priority within societal management strategies, but believe that success can be assured only if new emphases and innovative approaches are adopted. Some Governments, although not yet the majority, have shown a marked tendency to move towards treatment of social issues in a comprehensive manner, rather than in terms of their sectoral dimensions. A major focus for integration in both conceptual and operational terms has been very clearly the family, which offers scope for much synthesis within social policy efforts. Indeed, it was the central significance of this fact that was recognized in the proclamation by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session of 1994 as International Year of the Family, which, it is anticipated, will in turn contribute to better realization of the value of a family-oriented approach in social development. There is very strong convergence in thinking among the responsible governmental agencies and concerned intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and specialists that an effective social policy contribution must comprise the following mutually reinforcing sequence:

(a) Further validate individual dignity and worth, and promote consideration of those who are disadvantaged or dysfunctional not as actual or potential burdens upon society but as unused human resources;

(b)   Promote and support individual, family and community efforts to
overcome dysfunctional conditions by means of strengthened social welfare
services: the higher the levels of individual dysfunction, the more severe
are the constraints upon realization of human resource potential and
achievement of higher individual productivity, creativity and entrepreneurial
effort. Programmes designed to generate income, create employment, and
improve health and education cannot successfully reach many targeted
individuals precisely because of their dysfunctional condition;

(c)   Protect and support all forms of micro-level association for mutual
self-help, including families and other kinship-based support systems and
community associations;

(d)   Promote, support and protect small-scale enterprises, including
cooperatives, in order to provide a self-reliant and flexible base for local
entrepreneurial activity;

(e)   Expand contributory social security and complementary
non-contributory social assistance programmes in order to prevent, contain or
resolve individual dysfunction and breakdown in support systems;

(f)   Promote an efficient, flexible and resilient civil society whose
complex of institutions provides an organizational context wherein individuals
may avoid dysfunction and disadvantage, realize their potential for mutual
self-help and solidarity, and protect and represent their interests;

(g)   Promote effective participation of all individuals, freely
undertaken and with full access to information, in the management of processes
relevant to their own condition;

(h)   Ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency in government;

(i)   Improve rapidly and substantially the condition of indigenous
people, and other ethnically distinct populations who constitute a major
unused human resource in many national societies and whose creativity and
experience in many fields of endeavour humanity cannot afford to lose, by
means of innovatory approaches within broader strategies designed to enable
them to respond as equal partners to contemporary opportunities and
constraints, and to formulate their own approach to achieving an equal but, if
they wish, separate membership within multi-cultural national societies; 4/

(j)   Increase attention to culture as a factor of central relevance to
social policy in order to avoid ethnocentric concepts not only in applying
experience gained in one country to situations elsewhere, but also in applying
nation wide policies to a heterogeneous population;

(k)   Strengthen the public sector with respect to information collection,
evaluation of innovative measures and policy-oriented research; effective
central strategic guidance, support and coordination; harmonization of

different areas of social policy, s_ that advantage can be taken of the
potential for mutual support between different measures and so that action in
one area may not constrain that in another; and appropriate forms of
regionalization, decentralization and attention to locational variety;

(1)   Provide more effective and relevant training to social and community
workers, and to other specialists engaged at the micro-level in protecting and
supporting disadvantaged sections of the population, in order to establish
subregional and local social development teams. Indigenous peoples and other
ethnically distinct populations in particular need such training.

14.   On the basis of the conclusions set out above the General Assembly may
wish to consider the following courses of action which might be taken by
Governments:

(a)   Participate fully in international discussions on social
development, including preparations for the World Summit for Social
Development, which the General Assembly, by resolution 47/92 of
16 December 1992, decided to convene in 1995, and reflect as appropriate the
Guiding Principles as a contribution to substantive preparations;

(b)   Take initiatives to organize regional conferences to promote
implementation of the Guiding Principles, if appropriate as part of
preparations for the World Summit;

(c)   Elaborate on the basis provided by the Guiding Principles, in close
consultation with all relevant non-governmental organizations and
institutions, and with the assistance of the United Nations system if
appropriate, a comprehensive national social policy as an essential component
of the country's societal management strategies;

(d)   Strengthen, or establish if none exists, a national council for
social development in order to ensure the close partnership with principal
representative non-governmental organizations which is essential to
implementation of the Guiding Principles, and promote its active membership in
the International Council for Social Welfare in order to strengthen
international coordination as a complement to closer intergovernmental
cooperation;

(e)   Utilize observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994
as an opportunity for formulating an integrated national family strategy in
order to contribute to achievement of the goals and objectives of the Guiding
Principles;

(f)   Include social policy components within comprehensive national
strategies for dealing with drug and alcohol abuse; anxiety, stress and
suicide; HIV/AIDS; homelessness; family violence, delinquency and crime; and
other severe dysfunctional conditions;

(g) Give high priority to promoting and facilitating mutual interaction between efforts to implement the Guiding Principles and those to implement Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; 5/

(h) Consider extension of social security and social assistance as a relatively cost-effective means of hastening completion of the demographic transition;

(i) Fully utilize the potential of social policy to contribute to the prevention and resolution of ethnic conflict and political extremism;

(j) Further promote, facilitate and support the effective participation of citizens in all phases of policy formulation and implementation in matters which affect them, making use for this purpose of the pertinent recommendations of the Plan of Action for People's Participation adopted by the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1991, and seeking as appropriate to extend its recommendations to urban conditions.

III. IMPLEMENTATION IN WESTERN EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND JAPAN

15. In many societies the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles appeared to be further from fulfilment than in 1987. Many countries had been affected by processes which had caused serious inefficiencies in societal organization, to the further detriment of the many already disadvantaged, as well as to an increasing number of newly disadvantaged. Governments, intergovernmental organizations and specialist institutions identified increasing pauperization as the major contemporary challenge to implementation of the Guiding Principles. The maintenance of an effective social safety net was essential but had to be closely linked to labour market restructuring. Careful targeting was necessary. It was no longer possible to hope for "full employment societies", with the great majority in full-time formal jobs, enjoying comprehensive social guarantees. However, it might be possible to establish "full activity societies", providing for all households an acceptable mix of full-time and part-time employment, including home and community work. This would require adaptation of social security systems to persons in non-formal occupations, many of them women, but these systems were already seriously affected by population ageing. Widespread stress and anxiety caused an increasing incidence of individual dysfunction, including sharply rising suicide rates, coinciding with a declining capability of many families and communities to provide care. Increasing numbers of migrants and refugees strained resources and stimulated ethnic and racial conflict.

16. The response to these processes had been significant adjustment in societal management strategies, including re-examination of the functions therein of social policy. A continuum of strategic positions ranged from the view that the State should assume little responsibility to one that it should

be the senior partner. Recent trends emphasised a shift in position along
this continuum towards transferring greater responsibility to individuals,
families and communities in those countries which until recently had favoured
maximum governmental intervention, which could no longer be financed. But
there appeared to be a point on the continuum which corresponded to a belief
that, in post-industrial societies, there must be a limit to State withdrawal
from responsibility (indeed many national constitutions defined an expressed
obligation on the part of the State). Moreover, there had been convergence
towards this point also by societies until recently located further towards
the extreme of minimal governmental intervention: this was because the costs
of insufficient involvement had increasingly constrained economic efficiency
and socio-political solidarity.

17. An example of a society shifting substantially away from emphasis on
governmental responsibility was that of New Zealand. Here the goal of social
policy was still to contribute to a fair and just society: however, both
fairness and justice were perceived to be principles applicable not only in
favour of the needy but also in favour of those called upon to support them
through their taxes. Consequently, the thrust of current adjustments was to
reduce need by effective prevention of dysfunction while converting existing
dependency into responsible self-sufficiency. Social policy would contribute
to managing a society so that all had sustainable opportunities to realize
their full potential to contribute to the economy by means of their own
enterprise, self-reliance and participation. Nevertheless, there would be no
retreat from the responsibility of the public sector to play a major role in
protecting and supporting individuals whose resources were insufficient.

18. A society much more reluctant to shift from strong governmental
participation was Finland. Here severe recession had caused a crisis in the
financing of the social security, welfare, and health care system: already by
October 1992 certain extensions of the system had been stopped, some already
reduced and other reductions were under consideration. Finnish people did not
easily accept reduction in social benefits in favour of returning
responsibility for care of dependants to the family. Social and health
professionals considered that real savings could be brought about only in the
long term. Moreover, agencies responsible for social policy, in contrast to
budget agencies, insisted that short-term savings from retrenchment would be
greatly exceeded by medium- and long-term costs. Underlying the current
economic challenge were severe problems arising from population ageing whereby
the entire pension system would run into financial crisis by the early years
of the next millennium if remedial measures were not soon successfully
applied. To resolve the situation a better demographic structure was
required, but fertility was not susceptible to policy incentives and
disincentives. The alternative was to allow immigration, but this would place
a heavy demand upon the services intrinsic to the Finnish welfare State.

19. A statement concerning major social policy issues transmitted to the
Secretary-General in October 1992 by the Government of the United States of
America identified the difficulties faced even by economically advanced
countries in achieving societal conditions consonant with the goals and

objectives of the Guiding Principles. Demographic ageing had been a major
cause of rapidly rising health costs, but the burden on the public budget was
an expression of widespread poverty; the Federal/State Medicaid programme for
low-income persons constituted much of this burden. Increasing public health
costs, and a reduced tax base, were caused also by a poverty-based complex
acknowledged to result from insufficient public spending. One means of
alleviating costs had been to transform unemployed recipients of assistance
into employed taxpayers. However, mothers enrolled on the Aid to Families
with Dependent Children programme, who undertook training and obtained jobs,
encountered as yet unresolved problems of caring for dependants.

20. The Government of Germany drew the Secretary-General's attention to the
emphasis it gave to the contribution that self-help activities were making to
achievement of the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles. In 1987 it
had initiated a model programme which comprised financial assistance and
allocation of office space; infrastructural support through self-help contact
offices; and institutional support through local self-help advisers and
ombudsmen. A five-year pilot project had extended this programme to the new
eastern provinces, where further progress had been made also in establishing
an effective private social welfare sector. The Government had supported
those programmes undertaken by existing private organizations designed to
assist their new partners both financially and organizationally. Measures
intended to bring nearer true freedom for women to choose between
child-rearing and employment outside the household had been adopted and, from
January 1991, fully extended to the new eastern provinces.

21. In most of the countries which provided information, adjustments had been
made in legislation, institutional arrangements and operational arrangements
in order to rationalize and make more efficient and effective social policy
formulation and implementation. Developments included redistribution of
responsibilities among central government agencies: for example, in Iceland,
a consolidation under the Ministry of Social Affairs of previously dispersed
responsibilities; and in Germany, in response to demographic, socio-cultural,
economic and technical developments, establishment of a separate Ministry for
Family and Senior Citizens.

22. Other changes occurred with respect to decentralization of
decision-making concerning the use of central government subsidies and use of
private services (e.g., the Planning and State Subsidies Act of 1992 in
Finland). Attempts were made to define better the responsibilities of local
authorities and strengthen their capabilities (e.g., the Local Authorities
Social Service Act of 1991 in Iceland). In Cyprus the Government subsidized a
rapidly increasing number of voluntary agencies. Their work was coordinated
by a Pancyprian Welfare Council which had begun a programme of recruiting and
coordinating volunteers for welfare organizations and institutions, thereby
encouraging links between concerned citizens and members of population groups
who happened to be disadvantaged or dysfunctional. In a number of countries
there was increased support to families caring for disadvantaged or
dysfunctional persons, for example, by means of recently enacted legislation
in Greece. In Portugal recent measures had been designed to strengthen

collaboration between a decentralized system of social security and social
action and private organizations concerned with social solidarity as well as
mutual-help associations which existed within a strongly developed system of
family and community solidarity. A newly introduced programme provided
financial support to suitable families for the purpose of integrating
temporarily or permanently within them isolated elderly persons and persons
with disabilities. Anti-poverty programmes, including in some areas gypsy
communities, were associated with an emphasis upon integrated community
development. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the
Government was completing the last stage of implementing its new policy on
community care, whereby disadvantaged persons were enabled to live as
independently as possible in their own homes or in a homely setting in the
community. This involved the transfer from April 1993 of central funds to
local authorities who would thereafter be responsible for assessing care
needs, and funding and commissioning all social care.

23. In addition to the strategic adjustments required to meet changing
societal conditions, Governments drew attention to a number of issues that
still required policy attention if the goals and objectives of the Guiding
Principles were to be achieved within an acceptable period. Regionalization,
decentralization and the strengthening of local service provision had
encountered numerous problems of balancing local and central requirements.
There was often insufficient spatial conformity between administrative
entities and the functional geographic spaces, such as metropolitan regions,
for which coherence in policy intervention was essential. Measures to
facilitate and fully reward the contribution to society of persons,
predominantly women, in caring for and socializing children, a prerequisite
for full use of human resources and for avoidance of major costs of
dysfunction, were still very inadequate. Many countries lacked comprehensive
national strategies which included effective social policy contributions to
preventing and resolving severe dysfunction such as drug and alcohol abuse,
HIV/AIDS, suicide, etc. There had been insufficient progress in responding
better to cultural diversity, including the potential of indigenous peoples to
contribute to resolution of their own social problems as well as those of
broader society.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

24. In European countries attempting to construct market-managed societies on
a base inherited from command socialism, careful consideration was being given
to the function of social policies in new societal strategies. Here strategic
reconstruction of national economies and political systems had been
parallelled by a substantial shift in social policy from a predominance of the
public sector, and universal approaches to social security and welfare
provision, towards much greater responsibility for civil society and for
families and individuals themselves, and to a selective approach within
residual public programmes. The preferred strategic position in all these
societies was one which had moved away from a common point at one extreme, to

a diversity of new positions ranged widely along the continuum in the
direction of minimum public involvement. However, societal conditions had
given less scope for revision of former arrangements than had been hoped for,
and the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles were in most respects
far from achievement.

25. A complete tranformation in social policies was perceived in most
countries to be not merely a response to strategic reconstruction, but rather
to be one of its essential motors. Suggestions for a comprehensive strategy
formulated during mid-1992 in the Russian Federation and transmitted to the
Secretary-General illustrated well the nature of the strategic function of
social policy in the management of societal transformation which was
considered at that time to be desirable, although it was not suggested that in
actual conditions implementation could soon begin. Nevertheless, the
conceptualization of the functions of social policy in economic transformation
is pertinent to an understanding of a common concern among Governments in this
region. A comprehensive reform of social policy was considered an essential
prerequisite for achieving success with respect to each of the critical
factors determining the rate of emergence of the economy from its contemporary
crisis: expansion of capital for private investment, the demand for which
must be stimulated, and significantly increased labour productivity. A shift
from a universal to a carefully targeted system of public sector provision of
social security, social assistance, housing, health and education would permit
a reduction in the public budget, thereby allowing tax reductions which, if
applied to private enterprise profits, would release capital for investment.
A shift from a universal system of social security coverage would permit
priority being given to expenditures designed to increase labour productivity
and entrepreneurial activity, including retraining and relocation of labour
and the productive absorption of citizens returning from elsewhere in the
former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. An active employment policy would
stimulate rapid search for new employment and willingness to adopt new
occupations. It would also make available funds needed to support more
adequately persons made redundant and others in real need. This would
facilitate better realization of human resource potentials and prevent social
disintegration. Transfer to individuals of responsibility for satisfying
their own needs would stimulate an interest in productivity, saving and
effective investment. Public and private contributory pension and insurance
funds would become an important source of capital for investment.

26. Most Governments faced very severe obstacles to the implementation of any
such social development strategy. They were confronted with the challenge of
bringing about a very substantial transformation in social services while at
the same time maintaining adequate support for the vulnerable and
disadvantaged no longer covered by enterprise-linked services, and even
extending services to those previously inadequately protected. For example,
the impact of transformation in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic had been
mitigated by monthly compensation allowances and inflation-adjusted social
benefits. Some countries had not yet changed substantially from previous
systems: in Bulgaria in 1992, 96 per cent of all social security and social
welfare expenditure was still administered through enterprises. Other
countries were using the inherited system as a base from which innovative

extensions were being made. In urban districts in Belarus, home services and social assistance departments, administratively subordinate to municipal social security offices, monitored provision of commodities and services by a variety of public and private institutions, including retail enterprises. They also provided direct social services, including home visits, and facilitated interaction between persons in need and appropriate public agencies. In rural districts, territorial social assistance and domestic service centres and special sections of district social security offices provided similar services. Private programmes were growing in importance: the Red Cross Society already played a most important role and other charitable and religious societies were beginning to provide assistance and to coordinate their work with that of the district social security offices. While the comprehensive system of provision of social security benefits and income tax relief to assist all families, and particularly mothers, remained in operation, specialized social services for families in solving severe economic problems and disruptive conditions were lacking. There was a great shortage of social workers and psychologists.

27. Hungary had moved very far from previous policy positions. Parliament was expected to adopt before the end of 1992 a new social law whereby local authorities would assume responsibility for most social services. These were to be provided also by private organizations either by commercial contract or with support received from a Welfare Service Foundation, responsible for the development of local civil associations engaged in creating work for socially disadvantaged persons, and financed by governmental and by European Community (EC)-PHARE funds. From February 1992 the State health system was transformed into an insurance-based system.

28. Despite progress achieved in some countries, the situation in this region was still very grave and remained far from the conditions which would constitute an acceptable level of achievement of the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles. The social costs of transition to market-determined societal management were becoming increasingly high. Governments and international agencies had begun to recognize that social conditions of such severity undermined the entire viability of the economic structural reforms being attempted. The dismantling of the public sector of the economy and its closely associated social security and welfare mechanisms had transferred responsibility to either the government or private organizations, none of which were sufficiently prepared, in terms of financial and human resources, legal capacity or administrative experience. This had extremely serious consequences, particularly for the considerable proportion of their populations made up of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, which was rapidly reaching catastrophic proportions: conditions of real destitution, homelessness and human misery not experienced for many decades had reappeared. Stress, anxiety, suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse, delinquency and crime were rising rapidly. Ethnic tension and conflict and large-scale migration and refugee movements were adding substantially to social problems.

29. Major constraints upon implementation of newly introduced social measures continued to exist. There were severe problems in redistributing new

responsibilities over the complex of public sector agencies, themselves
undergoing substantial restructuring. Classification and registration of
needy citizens were necessary. Social statistics, including those at the
micro-level, must be compiled. Institutions for policy coordination within
the public sector, and between it and the private sector, were undeveloped.
Many factors militated against achievement of efficiency, transparency and
public accountability in both local and central government, as well as
establishment of a strong civil society, especially in rural areas. Few
resources were available for retraining social security and health personnel
and training social and community workers. External assistance was
uncoordinated and insufficiently evaluated: inappropriate arrangements were
already prejudicing individual, family and societal interests, particularly in
institutional child care and international adoptions.

V. IMPLEMENTATION IN COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, DEVELOPING ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA NOT AFFECTED BY SOCIETY-WIDE CATASTROPHES

30. The challenges which confronted attempts to achieve the goals and
objectives of the Guiding Principles remained extremely severe, and in most
respects in all but very favoured countries the goals and objectives of the
Guiding Principles were far from being achieved. The situation varied widely
among countries in these regions. Some (for example, Brazil, Mexico, South
Africa, India) faced highly complex challenges to strategic management, but
already possessed very substantial resources which could be drawn upon for
this purpose. In their advanced regions they had to deal with a complex of
social problems similar to those common in North America and Europe. Here
institutional development, trained resources, and programme experience in
social policy areas were as high or even higher than in some countries in
Europe and North America. The social policy mix was characterized by a
significant governmental component, but more generally by reliance upon civil
society, in which there were many uncoordinated specialist organizations, as
well as still strong family and other kinship-based support systems. However,
they had to deal simultaneously with problems arising from massive migration
from rural regions. Here family and community systems, although often
seriously damaged, faced the severe problems arising from maldevelopment, with
minimal governmental or formal private organization contributions.

31. Among these countries, South Africa was faced by an unusual combination
of circumstances which called for strategic rethinking: severe recession,
serious drought and the difficulties of bringing about the social development
of an extremely disadvantaged majority, until very recently totally excluded
from strategic policy-making. The Government was engaged in an adjustment of
its societal management within the context of further dismantlement of
apartheid. It was formulating new social welfare policies by means of
consultation with concerned public and private agencies. In this it was able
to call upon a long experience in many areas of social development and would
continue to rely upon partnership with an extensive network of private sector
organizations, previously separately engaged with each of the racially defined
sections of the population, but now to become fully integrated. Attention was

being given to overcoming differences in service provision: parity in the
subsidization of those welfare services rendered to the elderly came into
effect in July 1992, while disparity in respect to other social grants was to
be phased out by October 1993. As an immediate response to poverty and
drought, a National Nutrition and Social Development Programme had started to
function in June 1992. It subsidized the community-based programmes of
non-governmental organizations, as it was acknowledged that communities
themselves were best able to identify and prioritize their own needs.

32. Countries with highly favourable economic conditions formed a quite
distinct category in respect of societal management and the functions attached
to social policy. They had financial resources sufficient to support welfare
state conditions. For example, in Saudi Arabia, where social policies were
designed to realize human potential, individual responsibility and societal
harmony and solidarity, public resources were sufficient to provide high
standards of preventive, curative and rehabilitative social security for all,
as well as social assistance for specially dysfunctional persons. Much
financial support was available to voluntary organizations. Consequently,
although there remained scope for further improvement in organizational and
technical aspects, the Government was able to report that implementation of
the Guiding Principles faced no major problems.

33. In Singapore a further shift in responsibility from Government to
individuals, families and communities was under way. A preventive approach
was utilized in order to anticipate problems and deal with them at an early
stage. Community participation in the provision of social services was being
maximized, as public programmes did not have the same effectiveness as those
of community, religious and civic organizations. Many other Governments
attempted to render increasingly effective the articulation between public and
private programmes, as, for example, in Indonesia where the social welfare
system based on communal solidarity within an Islamic society - "Bapa Angkat" -
was actively supported.

34. The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines guaranteed enjoyment of the
fruits of social progress to all, but stipulated also that they should
contribute to that progress. The development plan for 1987-1992 stressed
decentralization and required more active people's participation, through
involvement in community organizations and non-government bodies, not only in
programme implementation but also in programme and project identification and
in decision-making. A "total family approach" shifted the targeting of social
services from individuals to families, thereby making the latter the entry
point in providing services to clients and to other members of the family. To
support families dealing with problems, family enrichment and counselling
activities and short-term family casework services were provided. More
comprehensive support was given to communities with significant proportions of
their populations needing social welfare services. This included raising
people's awareness of the needs and problems of their community; facilitating
collective action to respond to common needs and problems; and strengthening
or organizing viable structures that would respond to community needs and
problems.

35. In many countries structural adjustment programmes had involved
substantial reduction in the resources allocated to the social sectors.
However, in some cases Governments had resisted pressures to take such action;
for example in Jordan, which since 1989 had embarked upon a strict programme
of structural adjustment to enable it to overcome in the long run economic
problems. This had made necessary strict rationing of the State budget. The
country also faced severe pressures imposed by the sudden influx of very large
numbers of persons requiring welfare services as a result of the recent
conflict in the region. However, the social services ministries had not had
to face any budget cuts. This reflected the Government's belief that the
provision of such services was, in the final analysis, an investment for the
future.

36. In most countries Governments acknowledged that, in order to move nearer
to achievement of the goals and objectives of the Guiding Principles, the
fundamental contribution must be made by macro-level economic and political
policies and appropriate regional planning in order to remove the negative
factors now constraining the full realization of the vast human resources
available. However, a complementary social policy intervention was considered
essential. One policy area with respect to which it was thought possible that
progress could be made, even in current conditions of limited resources, was
that of strengthening the economic and social security of families. Family
and other kinship-based micro-support systems remained the principal
organizational means of reducing and spreading risk and providing economic and
social security. They also provided a base from which to participate in
private enterprises and public programmes. Although exhibiting remarkable
flexibility and resilience, many had been severely damaged by recent societal
change. Formal social security programmes, already restricted in scope, had
also suffered, and there had been insufficient development of mechanisms
provided by the market or by new forms of intermediate association within
civil society. Consequently, a major gap in economic and social security
existed, within which poverty and destitution persisted. The large population
included in this gap suffered severe dysfunctional conditions, leading to
self-perpetuating disadvantage, environmental degradation and delay in the
demographic transition, with all its multiple consequences. 6/ Hence, it had
been increasingly realized that to extend contributory social security
coverage would have immediate benefits, particularly if complemented by
provision of non-contributory social assistance. Recipients would be entry
points to wider networks made up of kinship-based support systems. Assistance
in the form of small but relevant amounts of cash might be the least costly
measure to administer and the most helpful to recipients, the majority of whom
might best be women, who would be able thereby to adopt the most flexible and
efficient approaches to the solution of family problems. Improved economic
and social security would assist mutual self-help mechanisms to prevent
dysfunction, rehabilitate dysfunctional persons and develop confidence in
using measures to realize human potential. 7/

37. It was recognized by Governments, entities of the United Nations system,
and specialists that efforts by individuals and communities themselves needed
support by teams of specialists in such areas as small enterprise development,

credit union management, functional literacy, primary health care, and so
forth. Their separate programmes must be harmonized by specialists in
regional and subregional planning, extending to neighbourhood and community
planning. Included in such teams should be specialists in strengthening
mutual self-help associations, cooperatives and all forms of mobilization and
participation. However, because individual dysfunction arising from stress
and anxiety, and from breakdown in support systems, was a form of disadvantage
additional to, even if based upon, poverty, ill-health and illiteracy, and
prevented individuals from benefiting from measures in these sectors, all the
above efforts must be extended and supplemented, in a closely articulated
manner, by the interventions of social workers and counsellors engaged very
actively in prevention as well as care and rehabilitation. Given restrictions
on modern sector resources, sufficient impact could be achieved only by an
improved articulation between modern and large unused indigenous resources on
the analogy of the relationships between modern and "traditional" medicine.
Thus indigenous community resources could be upgraded both technically and
organizationally, with strong backing by supervisory and specialist personnel
trained in non-indigenous knowledge and methods.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY SOCIETY-WIDE CATASTROPHES

38. Many Member States (all but a few located in Africa, Asia and Latin
America) experienced combinations of catastrophic environmental, economic or
political conditions affecting for long periods substantial proportions of
their national population and territory. Indeed, so widespread were such
conditions that countries suffering from them could be perceived as a constant
and numerically significant component of the international scene. Here normal
societal management strategies must be superseded by emergency programmes, in
which social policies must nevertheless continue to play a significant role.
Indeed, it would seem appropriate to design comprehensive social policies
specifically for situations of national catastrophe.

39. Conditions were severe for populations experiencing catastrophe in situ,
but substantially worsened where they were displaced within a country or
across frontiers. The experience accumulated by the Office of the United
Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was relevant to all such
emergency situations. Immediate assistance must be focused on individuals
suffering severe material deprivation and psychological shock in conditions of
breakdown in former micro-level support systems, and severe disruption in
civil society and in normal provision of public services. Measures must deal
urgently with unusually severe dysfunction affecting significant numbers of
persons, and often added to the full range of dysfunctions and disadvantages
normally affecting them. Emphasis must be given to family reunification,
family needs and the role of the family in facilitating durable solutions.
While acknowledging the need for immediate external assistance, UNHCR
perceived refugees themselves as the greatest available resource whereby,
through mutual self-help, the psychological, social and material structures of
normal life could be most rapidly and firmly reconstructed.

40.   Policies developed in respect of national catastrophe could be applied
also in what might be termed the chronic semi-catastrophic conditions which
exist in many urban and rural regions of other countries in Africa, Asia and
Latin America, particularly where the populations affected were indigenous
peoples and other ethnically distinct communities. They could be applied even
in parts of some developed countries, particularly in inner cities, isolated
rural areas, and economically depressed regions affected by what might be
described as chronic social catastrophe. In all countries there may occur
small-scale or short-lived disasters, which require analogous special social
policy responses: closure of industrial plants; local accidents and
environmental disasters; and local civil unrest.

41.   There was growing evidence that social policy was able to contribute also
to the prevention of catastrophe and the rehabilitation of affected
societies. Social measures could contribute directly to prevention of
conflict, particularly between ethnically distinct sections of society, by
promoting community stability and individual self-confidence and respect for
others. They could contribute indirectly by helping to avoid economic
inequities. Social policy could contribute also to the prevention and
amelioration of natural catastrophe, by promoting and facilitating the wide
diffusion of critical adjustments in micro-level behaviour. Social policies,
designed to strengthen the condition and status of women within micro-level
support systems, to meet social security needs and to reduce individual
dysfunction, were able to contribute very significantly to the resolution of
societal problems arising from demographic conditions. Finally, in countries
engaged in long-term societal reconstruction following recent catastrophic
conditions, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, social policy measures were
contributing to the task of rehabilitating individuals, reconstituting
families and communities and re-establishing civil society. Wartime and
post-war conditions had imposed serious impediments on progress towards
establishing the normal set of social security and social welfare services,
and special measures had been necessary to deal with the very large numbers of
affected persons. For example, all public organizations and enterprises were
required to allocate 10 per cent of jobs to war-disabled persons or to the
children of those killed, missing or disabled.

VII.   IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

42.   Most of the entities that transmitted information to the
Secretary-General pointed out that their programmes might better be described
as consonant with, rather than pursuant to, the Guiding Principles and the
associated resolutions of the General Assembly (42/125, 44/65 and 46/90). The
Guiding Principles had stressed macro-level, sectoral and group-oriented
policy areas in which these entities had been engaged for long periods prior
to 1987. The latter were in agreement with the recommendations, goals and
objectives of the Guiding Principles, having participated in the Interregional
Consultation where they were formulated and adopted, and consequently had not
needed to adjust their strategies in relevant areas of their responsibility.
However, some entities reported that some adjustments in priorities had been

made and some innovative programmes begun in direct pursuance of the
recommendations of the Guiding Principles. A number of entities, notably the
regional commissions, perceived important elements of their programmes to be
specifically designed to achieve the objectives of the Guiding Principles.
There appeared to be a substantial similarity between the majority of
respondent organizations and agencies in respect of their emphasis on a
decentralized, participatory and community-oriented approach within their
respective areas of responsibility. The following paragraphs summarize the
information transmitted by these entities in reply to a specific request by
the Secretary-General, and indicate with respect to a number of major areas of
policy interest, the activities which they considered to be directed towards
achievement of conditions fully consonant with the goals and objectives of the
Guiding Principles.

43. Overall functions of social policy in societal management. An important
activity of some entities had been to contribute to adoption of new concepts
of the function of social policies within societal management. The United
Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had been engaged in developing an
innovative strategy for sustainable human development based upon an "emerging
vision of development as human-centred, equitable and socially and
environmentally sustainable" which its annual series of Human Development
Reports and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had
helped to shape. First, it emphasized equity, participation, a vigorous civil
society, and effective people's organizations. Secondly, it recommended
reallocation of funds from ministries concerned with production and security
to those concerned with social services, people's skills, health and
productivity; redirection of focus within production and security ministries
to human development goals; reallocation of public expenditure from capital
construction to key recurrent expenditures; and allocation of more expenditure
to the base, where the returns were higher, than to the summit, thereby
favouring widely dispersed small projects capable of encouraging local
participation. Thirdly, it took into account the complementarities within and
between sectors; emphasized decentralization to local levels which were more
successful, less costly and more sustainable, and stressed empowerment and
accountability at the local level. These emphases were consonant with the
views of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
which, on the basis of its analysis of global developments during the 1980s,
had concluded that social advance did not flow automatically from economic
growth and technological change, whose impact on society was mediated by
social structures. In order to assess the likely impact of economic policies,
it was necessary to examine the social structures, institutions and movements
which shaped decision-making processes throughout society.

44. Considerable support for formulation of more appropriate and effective
social policy within societal management had been provided by the regional
commissions. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(ESCAP) had convened the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Social Welfare and Social Development at Manila from 7 to 11 October 1991,
which had adopted the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for
the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/46/581, annex). The

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), primarily
through the activities of its Social Development Division and its Latin
American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), had
held national and regional expert group meetings on priority topics and
assisted Governments in developing effective strategies to reduce severe
disadvantage and dysfunction. The Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia (ESCWA) had helped to develop the comprehensive social indicators needed
for national policy-oriented analysis and policy development. The UNCSDHA
Interregional Adviser in Social Development had supported national policy
reformulation. In cooperation with the European Centre for Social Welfare
Policy and Research, UNCSDHA was supporting the Government of the Czech and
Slovak Federal Republic in preparing for the Conference of Ministers and
Senior Officials Responsible for Social Affairs, Social Welfare and Family
Matters in the States of the United Nations European Region, to be convened
from 21 to 25 June 1993 at Bratislava, Slovakia. UNCSDHA operated a
continuous monitoring of implementation of the Guiding Principles and prepared
the series of reports of the Secretary-General (A/46/414 and the present
report), together with a complementary comprehensive study of policy
innovations, to be completed in 1993.

45. _Functions of social policy in major strategic areas_. The contributions
of social policy to strategies concerned with environmental, economic,
political and demographic problems were the preoccupation of several clusters
of specialist entities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by
means of its series of _State of the Environment_ reports and guidance to
Governments, had promoted mutual support between social development and
environmental management. Effective follow-up to the United Nations
Conference on Environment and Development, particularly with respect to
implementation of Agenda 21, would ensure comprehensive treatment of the
mutual interaction between social and environment issues. UNRISD was engaged
in research on the demographic, social and political dimensions of
environmental policies. The contribution of social policy to the resolution
of problems affecting the global economy, which had received attention at the
macro-level in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United
Nations Development Decade, was being followed up by the Department of
Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat, UNCSDHA, the World Bank,
the International Labour Organisation (ILO), FAO and the United Nations
Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The World Bank was increasingly
convinced that social development was in itself economic development. UNRISD
had undertaken research on mutual relationships between social processes and
economic crisis, structural adjustment, globalization and transition to
market-managed economies.

46. Social policy contributions to prevention and resolution of civil
conflict and threats to international peace had not yet received much
treatment, although ESCWA was examining the social impact of recent regional
conflicts and would contribute to the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Decade
for Western Asia (1994-2003). UNCSDHA had launched a pilot project using
multinational teams of social workers to promote reconciliation at the
community level in the United Nations Protected Areas of Croatia in

collaboration with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), UNDP,
UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the local Red Cross.
UNRISD was engaged in research on ethnic conflict, political violence and
social movements. Many entities, notably the United Nations Population Fund
(UNFPA), the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social
Development, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO) and FAO emphasized the centrality of social measures as
a means to contribute to resolution of disharmony between demographic and
societal conditions. The topic was explored in an Expert Group Meeting
organized by UNCSDHA and held at Vienna in September 1992.

47. <u>Full realization of human rights</u>. This was considered by all entities to
constitute the basis of their activities. Some were engaged in refining and
extending the corpus of instruments adopted by the international community
under the aegis of the United Nations, as the Commission on Human Rights in
its current preparations for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights as well
as in its function as secretariat to the Coordinator of the 1993 International
Year of the World's Indigenous People. Some were further developing
strategies which would promote full implementation of existing instruments, as
UNICEF with respect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Others
contributed to formulation of precise guidelines for national actions to
realize the rights of specific categories of disadvantaged persons, as UNCSDHA
in supporting formulation of Standard Rules on the Equalization of
Opportunities for Disabled Persons.

48. <u>Validation and upgrading of human resources</u>. Emphasis on realizing the
full potential of each human being, and particularly those for whom numerous
constraints had hitherto prevented this, continued throughout the system.
Entities responsible for economic sectoral policy areas, such as FAO, ILO,
UNIDO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
continued to promote realization of the human potential of disadvantaged
sections of the population within their efforts to develop human resources.
IFAD increasingly directed its efforts towards women: in January 1992 its
Governing Council had adopted the "Strategies for the Economic Advancement of
Poor Rural Women"; and in February 1992 it had organized a Summit on the
Economic Advancement of Rural Women which had adopted the Geneva Declaration
for Rural Women (A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex). Those entities responsible
primarily for social sectoral policy areas - ILO, the World Health
Organization (WHO), UNESCO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
(Habitat) (UNCHS) and UNICEF - continued their comprehensive attempts to
reduce inequities and prevent and resolve exploitation and discrimination
among disadvantaged sub-populations. UNICEF was primarily concerned with
children and their mothers, to whom also WHO gave special attention within its
strategy of health for all. WHO had issued a series of publications on the
health of disadvantaged sections of society and on reduction of inequities in
use of health-care resources. UNCSDHA continued its promotional, monitoring
and programme support activities as system-wide focal point for women, youth,
the elderly and disabled persons.

49. <u>Protection and rehabilitation of populations suffering extreme disadvantage</u>. This was the concern of many entities. The condition of refugees was addressed by UNHCR in close collaboration with many other entities and, in a regional context, by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). UNRISD was undertaking research on refugees, returnees and local society. In preparation for and observance of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, many entities were engaged in special activities. UNCSDHA was reviewing social welfare service provision to indigenous peoples, and their own ways of dealing with dysfunction.

50. Several entities, in close collaboration with many others in the system, focused their programmes on such major direct causes of severe societal dysfunction as crime and substance abuse. UNCSDHA gave attention to promotion of individual-, family- and community-based measures in crime prevention and criminal justice. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) would in 1993 undertake projects on the role of women and the family in education for prevention of drug abuse; on child abuse; and on violence in the family. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) considered that the broad preventive welfare measures being extended to many disadvantaged groups needed to include measures specifically tailored for individuals abusing drugs: otherwise significant numbers of disadvantaged individuals could become dysfunctional, preventing them from taking advantage of whatever welfare assistance programmes might exist. Many UNDCP programmes aimed at stimulating Governments to assume wider responsibility for the protection and support of people at risk were family and community oriented. UNRISD was undertaking research on the socio-economic and political impact of production, trade and use of illicit narcotic drugs.

51. Entities concerned to reduce disadvantage among broad sections of the population did not usually pursue their activities to the point of dealing with the many individuals among such broad sections who suffered so severe and complex conditions as to be dysfunctional and require support by social workers in order to benefit from broad measures. However, ILO was assisting countries in Asia and Africa to develop community-based rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for persons recovering from drug or alcohol addiction, and to develop prevention and assistance programmes at the workplace. UNICEF was giving special attention to children in especially difficult circumstances. UNCSDHA was analysing individual-, family- and community-oriented social welfare service contributions within national strategies for dealing with severe dysfunction, such as those arising from drug and alcohol abuse; anxiety, stress and suicide, HIV/AIDS and other chronic and terminal illness; homelessness; family violence; and crime and delinquency. The purpose was to develop guidelines which would help Governments to strengthen fully comprehensive national strategies.

52. <u>Families, communities and popular participation</u>. Most entities within the United Nations system were active in preparing for the International Year

of the Family, 1994, for which UNCSDHA acted as focal point and had elaborated
a substantial programme. Many entities, particularly ILO, FAO, IFAD and
UNIDO, were engaged in promoting and supporting small enterprises, including
cooperatives. UNCSDHA was preparing policy guidelines on the contribution of
cooperatives to social development. Effective participation by individuals
and communities in formulating and carrying out programmes likely to affect
them received much attention. FAO increasingly emphasized decentralized,
participatory approaches to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
The twenty-sixth session of the FAO Conference had adopted, in November 1991,
a Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development. A
particularly promising area of work involved promotion of autonomous rural
people's organizations based on the expressed needs and aspirations of their
members, without government influence or control. Agenda 21 outlined a
multi-disciplinary approach focused on people: if the impetus given to
participatory development by the United Nations Conference on Environment and
Development continued, then many development activities would move from being
viewed as government programmes in which local people were expected to
participate, to local people's programmes supported by government. The UNDP
Human Development Report 1993 would focus on people's participation in all its
forms. UNESCO was active in carrying out the recommendation of the 1990 World
Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, which emphasized
local emphasis on primary and functional education. WHO considered community
involvement to be one of seven key factors in the successful development of
health systems. The principle of decentralization and community participation
was central to the concept of the Bamako Initiative. One of five challenges
for the future included further empowerment of communities to assume more
responsibility.

53. Training. UNCSDHA was engaged in developing an international programme
to promote, facilitate and support substantially expanded training of the
numerous categories of specialists required for effective implementation of
the Guiding Principles at the micro- and local levels. During 1993 UNCSDHA,
with support from the Department of Economic and Social Development, was to
organize an interregional group training seminar in the management of
developmental social welfare programmes. It was engaged in preparation of
guidelines on regionalization and decentralization of social policies, an area
where the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) had also been
active. WHO considered decentralization to be a key factor in successful
development of health systems capable of achieving health for all. Programmes
to strengthen civil society included the very substantial work of ILO and FAO
in support of trade unions and workers' associations.

Notes

1/   Belarus, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Niger, Oman, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, the Sudan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Replies from Governments, transmitted as part of the previous round of monitoring but received too late to be taken into account in the previous report on this topic (A/46/414), were taken into account in the preparation of the present report. They were from Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jordan, Nepal, the Niger, Panama and the Philippines.

2/   United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

3/   Interregional Symposium on Social Services in Major Cities, Bangkok, Thailand, 16-20 December 1991 (organized by the then Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat with the substantive collaboration of UNCSDHA); International Expert Meeting on the topic "Towards a Competitive Society in Central and Eastern Europe: Social Dimension", Kellokoski, Finland, 20-22 September 1992 (organized by the National Agency for Welfare and Health, Finland, and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria); and Expert Group Meeting on the Social Consequences of Population Growth and Changing Social Conditions with Particular Emphasis on the Family, Vienna, 21-25 September 1992 (organized by UNCSDHA; see E/CN.5/1993/6).

4/   By means, for example, of the comprehensive strategy prepared by the Inter-American Indian Institute, Mexico, a specialized agency of the Organization of American States and published in América Indígena (Mexico), vol. L, No.1, enero-marzo, 1990, pp.119-140.

5/   See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), vols. I, II and Corr.1 and III.

Notes (continued)

6/   In preparing this section the task of the Secretary-General was greatly facilitated by the transmission to him of a comprehensive review prepared specifically for this purpose by the Panafrican Institute for Development in Douala, Cameroon.

7/   The technical cooperation agency of the German Government (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit - GTZ), in cooperation with the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, organized a Seminar on New Approaches to Social Security in South and South-East Asia, held at Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 1991, which extensively reviewed this issue (see I. P. Getubig and Sönke Schmidt, editors, Rethinking Social Security: Reaching Out to the Poor (Kuala Lumpur, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, 1992)).