

Conference Statement

**Tampere Declaration of
the Global Welfare '94 Conference**

Tampere Declaration of ICSW

The Fight against Poverty and Inequality on a World Level

global
WELFARE '94

July 3 - 7,
1994,
Tampere,
Finland

The 26th World Conference of ICSW

Conference Statement

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**The Fight against Poverty and Inequality on a World Level
Global Welfare '94**

**The Finnish National Committee of ICSW
October 1994**

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INTRODUCTION

The International Council on Social Welfare organized its 26th World Conference on July 3 -7, 1994 in Finland. The theme of the Conference was "Global Welfare '94; The Fight against Poverty and Inequality on a World Level".

The outcome of the Conference is included in this publication. The speeches and abstracts of the workshop presentations were published in the Conference Programme Book.

The Tampere Declaration of the Global Welfare '94 Conference was originally prepared in Finland and presented to the participants of the Conference as a background paper for the discussions and the resumé. This final version, printed in this publication is completed with the comments of the participants and key note speakers. The contents of the Declaration was structured in such a way that it is useful in the UN Social Summit preparations.

The Conference statement was prepared by Mr. Ronald Wiman, General Rapporteur from Finland and it is the official summary of the Conference discussions and recommendations.

The Tampere Declaration of the International Council on Social Welfare is a political programme of the Council adopted by the Council's Committee of Representatives. This Declaration, too, has a link to the UN Summit for Social Development, even though the time period for its application reaches to the year 2000.

The Finnish Conference organisers wish to thank all those who worked hard before and during the Conference to help to prepare these documents and hopes that the readers find them interesting and useful.

Helsinki, October 1994

STATEMENT OF THE GLOBAL WELFARE '94 CONFERENCE

by Mr. Ronald Wiman, Rapporteur General,
at the Closing Session, 6 July, 1994

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished participants,

It is a great privilege to speak at this final session of the Global Welfare '94 Conference. We are now approaching the conclusion of the intensive days here in Tampere. Excellent keynote speeches have been presented, dozens of exciting workshops have been held, constructive debates have taken place, ideas have been exchanged, old friends have met, new partnerships have been established. Networks are growing.

It is also a very difficult, if not impossible, task to fully cover the Conference content with one address. On behalf of the rapporteurs, Ms. Kay Ku, Mr. David Kramer and myself I will present a brief summary of the key issues tabled during this Conference. Necessarily, I have to take the liberty of generalizing many issues which we did discuss in all their colorful details.

Much more information than can be covered now is available in the abstracts published in the Conference Programme. Two background documents were also distributed to help focus the discussions at the Conference and thereafter.

"The Tampere Manifesto of ICSW" was adopted by the Governing organs of ICSW as a policy statement of the Organization which you will undoubtedly endorse.

The draft of the "Tampere Declaration of the Global Welfare '94 Conference" was prepared on the basis of inputs received prior to the Conference by the Finnish Organizing Committee. Now the Draft has been amended according to the inputs received during this Conference. A major change is the insertion of a chapter on Women and Development. We also added reflections on the situation of children and families. An edited copy will be made available upon request.

It is hoped that both these documents will help you to locate the issues of this Conference in the context of the World Summit on Social Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our summary statement reads as follows:

- 1 "The rapid economic growth that has taken place during the last fifty years has not always resulted in a better life for all. There have been winners and losers. The gap between the rich and the poor nations is widening. There has been development and misdevelopment. The limits of nature to the growth of consumption are being reached - before a large number of people ever reached levels of consumption in excess of the bare minimum existence.
- 2 Many individual societies tend to be splitting into A and B people; those who have good control over their lives and those who are getting excluded from the mainstream society.
- 3 While some economic theories maintain that uneven distribution of incomes and wealth is a prerequisite for efficiency and growth, there is much evidence that this may not be true. Because the poor tend to be the most efficient users of resources, reallocation of resources in favor of the poor may lead to better performance of the economy as a whole.
- 4 The equalization of economic opportunities is, therefore, not contradictory to the goal of economic growth. Rather, equity and justice stimulate growth. The opposite might not be true. Equality of opportunity and well-being for all do not result from economic growth alone without conscious policies towards a more just society.
- 5 The same holds on the world scale: the free market forces without social correctives play into the hands of the rich. Resources flow from the weaker economies to the powerful ones. A true new economic world order, a more just exchange between the rich and the poor, is the first prerequisite for the development of those countries whose people suffer from large scale poverty.
- 6 The traditional concepts of social welfare see poverty and inequality as consequences of individual failures. It is still common to blame people for the failures of the system. Poverty and inequality do, however, have structural causes. They can only be alleviated by structural interventions, measures that change the social, economic and cultural power structures of societies.
- 7 Poverty and inequality have their roots in hierarchical structures: the power structures of the world, the maledominated pyramid structures of individual societies. Such structures are being defended and justified by one-dimensional theories and ideologies such as simplified economics and fundamentalist religious doctrines.

8 Paternalistic charity perpetuates poverty and maintains inequality. At the international level, development aid from the industrialized world to the so called developing countries is a drop in the ocean compared to the massive flows of resources in the opposite direction. Aid and charity are inventions of the rich for maintaining the status quo.

9 It is, however, a serious mistake to believe that the adverse consequences of inequality and poverty on the world scale can be kept out by national borders. There is only one world, one world for all.

II

10 The continuing experiments with simplified economic thinking have hit the most vulnerable hardest. On the world scale, the countries with most fragile economic base have been the greatest losers. In individual countries, the consequences of puristic free market enthusiasm have hit most severely those with the least resources and power: children, women, the disabled, refugees, ethnic and cultural minorities.

11 For instance, child labor can be found behind many of the economic miracles of today. Children are the victims of the cruelest forms of warfare that is targeted at defenseless civilians. Children are the first victims of the collapsing social safety nets in countries undergoing economic restructuring exercises.

12 There is a wide gap between the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the current reality. Children inherit the future that we, the adult generations, have designed. A more just distribution of resources between the adult generations and children is, by definition, a prerequisite for sustainable development.

13 Women constitute the majority of the world's population. The world has, however, been planned by and run by men. The various forms of discrimination of women acquire their crudest manifestation in the feminization of poverty: an alarming proportion of the poor are women and children.

14 Women are, however, the main economic decision makers within families, and consequently their decisions and actions have major macroeconomic consequences. There is a need to review the paternalistic economic and social paradigms, to see women's central role, to realize the unused social, economic and cultural potentials that can be achieved through the empowerment of women. There is a need to see the poor women themselves as agents of change in the alleviation of poverty.

15 Poverty, unemployment and the marginalization of people are the three faces of the same phenomenon: there are groups of people who are denied equal access to the resources which are needed for managing their lives. Inequalities are linked together and poverty has a tendency to become a vicious circle.

III

16 Poverty and inequality are both consequences and indications of lack of development. But what is development? From the perspective of individuals and families, development means better possibilities to satisfy one's needs, more opportunities to make one's own choices, more opportunities for participation in economic, social and cultural life, more self-determination and increasing trust in the future.

17 Social development can, therefore, be defined as the process of equalization of opportunities for all to fully participate in the social, economic, cultural and political life of their societies. Social development leads to greater freedom for all.

18 On the world scale, global social development should be seen as the process for more just opportunities for all nations to participate in the economic, cultural, political and social exchange. What is needed, is "fair trade not aid".

19 It should be realized that people themselves are the main resource for development. They are the agents of change as well as the beneficiaries of social development. Consequently, the alleviation of poverty and inequalities is an investment in the future. Equalization of opportunities creates human capital and frees human energy and innovativeness.

20 The enabling of all people to achieve their full potential is the key to development. This calls for an inclusive society, a society for all, a society that is tolerant of differences and is able to accommodate differences for the benefit of individuals, families and the society as a whole.

IV

How can this be achieved?

21 The new paradigms call for a focus on local action, the empowerment of people themselves through access to resources, selfdetermination of people and partnership between all relevant actors in the community and the society as a whole. The goal must be to implement policies that widen the economic opportunities for the underprivileged and that secure human development for all at the community level. Poverty alleviation is an investment to sustainable development.

22 People's real world is in the community where they live. That is where development should start. That is where people should get involved. That is where people are at the center of development. That is where everyone's right to security and equality of opportunity is either materialized or not.

23 Governments are responsible for ensuring the enforcement of basic civil freedoms, entitlement and human security. These can, however, materialize only at the community level as a product of cooperation and partnership between governmental agencies, the business community, the non-governmental organizations, families and people themselves.

24 Most people live in families. Families are the first and most natural environment for the next generation. Therefore Governments are urged to design integrated child welfare and family policies to support families as units.

25 Civil society has a central role to play in social development as it empowers people and gives them a strong voice of their own towards Governments and even International Governmental Organizations.

26 The world is expecting the World Summit on Social Development to result in a new strategy for global development and new models for social development. Particularly at this crucial moment the non-governmental organizations who have access to the Summit process should strongly speak for people. Too many years have been lost in the elaboration and multiplication of structures and systems. Now is the time and the opportunity to put people in the center of the development debate."

**GLOBAL WELFARE '94,
the 26th International Conference of ICSW**

**THE TAMPERE DECLARATION
OF THE
GLOBAL WELFARE '94 CONFERENCE**

**A CALL FOR
INTEGRATED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AT ALL LEVELS;
TOWARDS ONE WORLD FOR ALL - ONE SOCIETY FOR ALL**

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Note 1.: In order to better communicate with the preparatory organs of the Social Summit, this paper has been prepared according to the structure recommended in the DRAFT DECISION of PREPCOM I (11.2.94). However, the issues to be dealt with in the Declaration were taken as the framework and the issues recommended for discussion in the "Programme of Action" have been included as "Priorities".

1. THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND CHALLENGES

1 During the past few decades, the world has on average experienced intensive **economic growth**. Economic growth has not resulted in global justice and well-being for all. **The gap between the rich and the poor is expanding**. In some parts of the world the population growth is **hampering** all efforts to improve peoples' lives. While the numbers and the needs have **grown faster than** the resources, the rich and the privileged minorities, often supported by **political and government** systems and priorities, have kept or even increased their share of the available resources and speeded up the impoverishment of the majority.

2 **In the rich countries**, economic development has led to the exclusion of ever increasing numbers of people from productive employment and hence from the mainstream society. The policy measures based on the - probably false - assumption that the present recession is just another bend in the indefinite upward trend of consumption, have failed to meet this challenge. The large scale youth unemployment has denied a whole generation full access to society.

3 While much development has taken place in many parts of the world, it seems plausible that for those who do have problems, the problems are growing more persistent. There is a tendency towards a permanent split both of the world and individual societies into two sections: those who manage to cope with the challenges and those who fall further and further from the mainstream.

4 Overcompetitive attitudes, the fiscal difficulties of public authorities and simplified, **inappropriate** economic thinking and policies are exacerbating the erosion of the social safety nets. In countries undergoing structural adjustment policies the same factors are leading to the neglect of the reconstruction of the social sector altogether.

5 The short-sighted selfishness and disregard for **our common future** on Earth is also expressed by the drastic cuts in the development cooperation budgets of the rich countries. It is an expression of ignorance to believe that the effects of **overpopulation and overconsumption, pollution, poverty, social disintegration, crime and violence** can be kept outside by national borders. There is only one Earth for all.

6 **Inequality and poverty, uncertainty and powerlessness** are breeding intolerance towards those who are different. In the present atmosphere, **forward-looking, positive visions of the future are being** replaced by the rise of **nationalistic ideologies**, intolerance and even violent xenophobia and brutality. The disrespect for **human values and human life** shows its cruelest face in the present armed conflicts, **the only objective** of which appears to be the **humiliation, rape and murder of civilians**. **Playgrounds are being** turned into shooting grounds.

7 Women and children constitute the majority of the people in all countries and the world as a whole. The world is, however, planned for men and is being run by them. In rich countries, one of the results are cities designed for cars and conspicuous consumption rather than human beings and their meaningful lives. In many poorer countries, most of the productive work is being done by women and children. The oppression of women and the exploitation of children are among the key factors leading to and perpetuating the excess population growth and poverty.

8 The present time could, however, offer great opportunities for solving the urgent social problems of the world. The cessation of the cold war could release enormous resources for constructive uses. The modern media are able instantly to raise world-wide awareness of any selected issues. This should be done not only in a professional and objective manner but also include the problems to be solved and the options available. The technology is there. Never before has there been as much non-governmental cooperation and direct interaction between people across frontiers. The bureaucratic pyramids are falling down. The strongholds of dictatorship by the few have fallen and the strongest obstacles to a true democratization process have been broken down by people themselves. If not recognized, grasped and fostered, the momentum may pass as suddenly as it emerged.

2. THE PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY ORIENTATIONS

9 There is no other justification for the legitimacy of governments than their will to respect human dignity as the highest value and their ability to ensure the materialization of universal human rights for all members of society.

10 All human beings have, by their very nature, the potential and the will to be active, purpose-seeking agents in their own lives rather than objects of care subjected to the power and will of others. For people to stay alive, the basic necessities of life must be available. Staying alive is not enough for a human being to live a meaningful life. Human well-being presupposes, first and foremost, an equal opportunity to participate in society as a full member who is entitled to individual independence and self-determination enabling personal choices.

11 The World Summit on Social Development of 1995 should be made into a turning point that calls for the re-examination of the relationship between economic growth and social development. Following the UN Conference on Environment and Development, it is increasingly understood that there are limits to economic growth that focuses on the expansion of material consumption levels. On the other hand, it is people, not economic or governmental institutions that are in the focus of development both as agents for change and beneficiaries. Only social development is development from people's point of view. Economic growth alone should not, therefore, be seen as an end in its own right, but only as a necessary but not sufficient means towards sustainable social development. In fact, a reliable social

infrastructure, social security and services are necessary prerequisites for successful economic transformation and development.

12 The equalization of opportunities, in order to widen the freedom of choice for all, is the essence of social development. Equal opportunities do not imply similarity, rather the contrary. The cohesion of societies, social integration, cannot be established by striving towards homogeneity or similarity and certainly not by attempts to establish imaginary "ethnically pure societies". While the struggle between the "capitalist" and "communist" ideologies has practically ceased, religious or racial intolerance has, in fact, become the leading cause of the present armed conflicts and civil strife.

13 There is only one way to go. It is the narrow path set by the very human desire for a better life and the limits to the growth of consumption set by Nature. The search for sustainable development within these strict margins begins with setting the right priorities, where people are at the center of development. Social development is a process of widening the opportunities for self-realization, of creating possibilities for a meaningful life in larger freedom for all. The sustainability of social development calls additionally for the equalization of opportunities between the present and the future generations.

14 The crucial essence of social development is expressed by the international community in the global Strategies of the United Nations system: "Food for All" (FAO), "Shelter for All" (Habitat), "Health for All" (WHO), "Education for All" (UNESCO), and "Work for All" (ILO).

15 All these sectoral strategies emphasize that all people are entitled to equal opportunities and equal access regarding the basic functions of society. All people are different due to their age, gender, color, religious or cultural background, ability, and so on. Therefore, the equalizing of opportunities implies taking into account the diversity of personal characteristics, needs and goals at the planning stage already.

16 The extensive social problems, lack of opportunities for productive economic activities, expanding poverty and social disintegration cannot significantly be relieved by focusing on specific target groups one at a time. The target group oriented charity approach is neither effective nor sustainable. The first prerequisite in efforts to enable the excluded groups to enter the mainstream society is to make the social, cultural, political, physical and economic infrastructures of society fully accessible to all.

17 The essence of a society that promotes equal access and opportunities for all and, at the same time, allows the full diversity of humankind to flourish, is depicted in the strategic concept of "**A SOCIETY FOR ALL**". An integrated and integrative approach to social development calls for a society that is pluralistic and tolerant, that accommodates people's differences and enables all people to participate in social, cultural and economic activities, making full allowance for the right to equal opportunities of future generations, too.

2.1. PRIORITIES

2.1.1. ENSURING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AT ALL LEVELS

18 A society that strives towards materializing the principles of a society for all would optimize its social development potential. By allowing and enabling all people to take part in the society it is possible to mobilize fully the only non-depletable resource, the energy and initiative of people themselves. The granting of full citizenship rights for all, and the organizing of a functional division of labor between all: the women and the men; the children, the adults and the elderly; the various ethnic or cultural groups; those with differing abilities, etc., would enable all people to disclose, develop and utilize their human potential.

19 During his/her life cycle, every person experiences more or less transient periods when the command of life is weakened to a varied extent. While membership of society implies interdependence and entitlement to the help of others, the basic right of all to independence and self-determination must be respected. The essential objective of professional social work should not be to control but to enable people to live a life of their own.

20 Public authorities should not expand their activities to replace the functions of civil society, but rather create conditions which enable the civil society to actively produce entitlements. However, there are some basic functions in society which can only be performed and ensured by central authorities. Ultimately the Government is responsible for ensuring that all people are equally entitled to exercise their universal human rights. These include civil freedoms, the right to protection and the cultural, social and economic entitlements.

21 Furthermore, the public authorities are responsible for ensuring that the physical, psychological, social, economic, political and cultural infrastructures of society do not discriminate against any group of people. In order to enable the exercising of equal opportunity also by those with special needs, the public authorities must make available and affordable a mix of complementary social services. Regarding the actual production and distribution of necessities and complementary services there should, however, be a diversity of functional mixes and division of labor between public authorities, the market, the NGOs, families and individuals themselves.

2.1.2. THE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF POVERTY

22 Widespread poverty remains a major challenge and obstacle to sustainable social development in most parts of the world. It is accompanied by poor health, illiteracy, the low status of women, large families and lack of access to the basic infrastructure and resources necessary for sustaining oneself, let alone for escaping from poverty.

23 One poor person in two in the world is considered to be extremely poor, barely able to meet her/his nutritional needs. A disproportional share of these extremely poor people are women and children. Children born and living in poverty are the most vulnerable group for whom there is no escape from poverty other than the help of the adult generation. Such help should be channelled through the family and particularly through the improvements in the status of women, their rights and their access to the basic resources, land and water and such services as Mother and Child Health and family planning services, credit, education and training.

24 Poverty is both a reason for and the consequence of rapid population growth. The lack of basic social security necessitates a large number of children, which in turn leaves little for investments both at the family and at national levels. While the major financial arrangements needed for a comprehensive social security system on a large scale are hardly possible in the poorer countries, the possibilities available through decentralized systems and by supporting the extended family and the community must be studied and developed.

25 In the industrialized world, new forms of poverty are emerging, particularly in cities. Expanding unemployment, the lack or non-affordability of health and rehabilitation services, the high cost of housing and the disintegration of families are pushing an increasing number of people out of the mainstream to join the new stratum of the urban poor.

26 The necessary but not sufficient precondition for the reduction and ultimate alleviation of large-scale poverty in the world would be a serious effort to reallocate the world's resources between the rich and the poor countries. While global and regional agreements on production and trade are necessary, a global social agenda must be integrated into such agreements. However, the allocation of resources and the distribution of incomes is, ultimately, a national level issue which cannot be solved by international arrangements only. A good government that serves the people is a necessity.

27 Although man-made or natural disasters are no less common today than they were in the past, they tend to claim more lives. The poorest people in the poorest countries are the most vulnerable victims. In wars and civil conflicts the target is actually to destroy defenseless civil communities and their livelihoods.

28 The growing numbers of victims and the reduction in humanitarian help are widening the humanitarian gap: more and more victims are receiving less and less help. The international organizations should ensure the operating ability of the relief organizations while working towards the prevention and permanent solving of disasters.

29 Disaster relief requires carefully planned cooperation between public authorities, non-governmental organizations, volunteers and the victims themselves. Readiness for relief operations, early warning systems and prevention programs call for long-term community-based programs which cover environmental protection, rural development, primary health care and community education efforts.

2.1.3. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

30 The access to productive employment or other economic activity for all wishing to participate in the labor market is a fundamental element in development, both as a prerequisite and as an indication of successful economic and social development. The lack of opportunities for productive work is a major cause of poverty and marginalization. Furthermore, it denies the people affected their independence and the possibility of making plans and of having a command over their own lives.

31 The ongoing economic restructuring processes and structural adjustment programs are never of a purely economic nature and may have extensive and expensive social consequences. The necessary increase in the flexibility of the labor market and employment arrangements are closely connected with social issues, such as employment, income distribution and social security. New models should not be adopted without negotiations between all the parties concerned and without consideration of their effects on the life conditions of families.

32 In order to sustain and increase people's command of life, even during rapid changes in their economic environment and the labor market, innovative combinations of work, education, training and reliance on social security measures, across people's life cycles, must be designed.

33 Policies for the expansion of productive employment will have to be designed in the new context of regionalization and globalization. A redistribution of work on a global scale is underway. While there is a need for solidarity and the dismantling of obstacles for trade, in order to improve the economic performance on the global scale, successful national employment strategies must be based on a realistic concept of comparative advantage rather than on traditional protectionistic concepts.

34 A high level of employment should be pursued as one of the major social goals by Governments. The national employment challenges call therefore for innovative forms of participation in the production processes. Local authorities, cooperatives, volunteer groups and non-governmental organizations, families and individuals themselves should form broader and more flexible coalitions in order to improve the local employment levels and to activate

the community in general.

35 While the preferability of a market economy over those with centralized control has recently been drastically shown, fully free markets do not exist anywhere. It is, therefore, a major fallacy to insist on full freedom on the labor market. The securing of basic safety of employees, the ensuring of decent working conditions and pay, the participation of the employer in the social costs of the employees, the ban on child labor and other non-humane forms of employment, require legislative measures and enforcement by the labor unions and ultimately the public authorities.

2.1.4. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

36 During periods of change, emerging trends and new structures tend to modify the status of various groups and the division of labor within societies. While the disintegration of the old regimes is the essence of development itself, there are desirable and undesirable phenomena as products and by-products of change.

37 The overemphasizing of market forces and of economic values, preached in the name of the modern regime, are, actually, simplistic efforts to reintroduce the free market system of the last century. The cost of economic restructuring efforts has, in some countries, been socially unbearable. Sometimes it has even led to civil war.

38 The marginalization of individuals and specific groups of people, open and hidden discrimination, the lack of a decent livelihood and security, poverty, alienation and social exclusion tend to disintegrate the rapidly changing societies and introduce elements of internal conflicts, scapegoating and intolerance. Some societies have collapsed altogether. The disintegrating states and societies are not only a threat to the security of their members; their problems tend to spill over borders, constituting a threat to regional and world security and peace.

39 Social integration can be striven towards either by enforcing homogeneity or by encouraging functional diversity. In a changing world the first method has proved untenable and even disastrous. For instance, the former socialist systems attempted to maintain cohesion by prohibiting diversity, differences of opinion and in life styles. The result was an explosive disintegration process.

40 Paradoxically enough, through decentralization and people's participation in decision-making the disintegrating tendencies can be weakened. This calls for a process of involving the people. Functional cooperation between individuals as members of their families, social networks, workplaces, neighborhoods with the NGOs, the business community

and the public authorities at community level is the key to functional integration.

41 The attitudes towards minorities and towards those who live differently or who look different are internalized at home and in the community. "Building the smallest democracy in the heart of society", as the International Year of the Family (IYF) calls for, is one of the cornerstones against discrimination and intolerance. It also calls for equality between boys and girls, men and women.

42 The main principles of social integration in the unavoidably multicultural societies of today are as follows: the equal opportunities for exercising influence, equal opportunities for self-development and equal rights for all including civil freedoms, social, cultural, economic and political rights.

43 The international organizations working in the field, both non-governmental and intergovernmental ones, and their national counterparts are a leading force in the establishment of monitoring and early warning mechanisms to detect disintegrating tendencies within societies and to keep solidarity and tolerance on the international agenda.

44 Governments and civic organizations should join forces to encourage heterogeneity and tolerance in view of the increasing displays of racism and intolerance. The United Nations Year of Tolerance (1995) will provide a framework for the design of national programmes to discourage racism and xenophobia.

2.2 SPECIAL CONCERNS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

2.2.1 WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

45 Since women constitute half of the world population, the advancement of women has a bearing on peace and development, and should therefore be addressed locally, nationally, regionally and globally. In particular, women as agents and beneficiaries of development must be fully integrated in policy formulation, planning, decision-making and implementation.

46 Women should have equal rights, obligations and opportunities with men in all sectors and at all levels of development. Their empowerment and the improvement of their political, social and economic status are essential for human development and the self-reliance of women and their families.

47 Formal, non-formal as well as informal education is essential for empowering women with knowledge, skills and self-confidence for full participation in development.

48 Priority should be given to health programmes targeting women and the girls throughout their life-cycle, particularly in the fields of nutrition, basic health and reproductive health.

49 The increasing global concern about the human dimensions of development requires the integration of gender concerns in all stages and at all levels of sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably enjoyed by all people. The interrelationship between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, properly managed and brought into a harmonious and dynamic synergy.

50 The alleviation of poverty and the elimination of absolute poverty are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development and the advancement of women. Consistent efforts towards achieving a balanced gender partnership are a prerequisite for the full development of human potential.

51 The strengthening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women in various dimensions and with effective collaboration between governments and non-governmental organizations is essential for the full and equal integration of women in people-centered development.

52 The human rights of women and the girl-child are inalienable, integral and indivisible parts of the universal human rights; consequently all forms of discrimination against women, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence should be eliminated.

53 The media are urged to fully respect the dignity of women, in particular by portraying women positively in all their diverse roles.

54 Vulnerable people, e.g. women, children, the disabled, elderly, chronically ill, are not isolated people but rather belong to a family where they should find help and protection. In spite of an often delicate and rapidly changing world, families continue to be a source of love, socialization, nurturing and care. As the fundamental unit of society, the family is entitled to the protection and support of society.

2.2.2 THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

55 The Convention on the Rights of the Child has marked a new era in the understanding of the rights of the child. According to the UN Centre for Human Rights, it calls on States "to create conditions in which children may take an active and creative part in the social and political life of their countries". Furthermore; "(the Convention) establishes the right of a child to be an actor in his or her development". States that have not yet ratified the Convention are urged to do so as soon as possible.

56 Virtually no society has been designed taking into account the rights and needs of children as being of equal importance with those of adults. The Convention and its follow-up mechanism have now created a momentum which should be used to improve the status of children, to guard their entitlements to development, to protect them from exploitation and to ensure their civil freedoms and participation in society and its decision making. A society good for the small ones is the best society for all.

57 Child abuse and neglect such as child prostitution, the exploitation of child labor and street children exist to some extent in all parts of the world and are in strong violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

58 While efforts to meet the urgent needs of children in the traditional developing countries should remain a priority, a new burning issue has recently emerged. The extensive internment of children in the former socialist countries has been realized by international organizations. The roots of the excessive reliance on institutionalization as a child welfare measure can be found in the professional and public mentality created during the socialist regime. It was characterized by the underestimation of the role and resources of people themselves and their families, the medical attitude towards social problems, systematically enforced intolerance towards those who were different and mixed feelings concerning loyalty to the public authorities, law and civil responsibilities, including family responsibilities.

59 The issue and suggestions for improving the rights and status of children at risk or already in institutions are summarized in The Riga Declaration on Alternatives to Institutional Child Care by UNICEF and ISCA (International Save the Children Alliance) of 2 February 1994. These recommendations should be widely disseminated to all the governmental and non-governmental agencies concerned and immediate action should be given high priority and implemented immediately.

60 States should guarantee national standards for safe and sound living conditions for children and families. In cases where the child's care and safe upbringing cannot be ensured at home, the child should be provided with correct appropriate substitute care as similar to family life as possible.

2.2.3. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

61 According to the World Health Organization, one person in ten is estimated as having a disability. This figure does not, however, describe the much wider incidence of disability over people's life cycle.

62 People with disabilities have been and still are among the most discriminated against members in all societies. Disability has been considered as a stigma that entitles the society to deprive a person of most of the rights ensured to other citizens. However, according to the Universal Human Rights instruments, people with functional limitations are also entitled to the basic necessities, equal participation, independence and self-determination.

63 The solution to the problems encountered by people with disabilities begins with the understanding that people with functional differences have the knowledge and expertise concerning their own needs. Experts are needed in the designing of a comprehensive process of equalizing opportunities based on non-discrimination and improved access to all systems of society. The empowerment of people themselves to take charge of their own lives is the most effective way to achieve integration and equality.

64 The international community has recently adopted an international legal instrument to advance the cause of people with disabilities. The "Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities" (UN A/48/96) provides universally applicable guidelines and a choice of functioning options for the implementation of these principles.

65 There is a tendency for governments to sponsor international resolutions and programs for PR reasons without even intending to commit themselves to their implementation. For instance, the Standard Rules were unanimously adopted but no resources were identified for their implementation and monitoring.

3. MEANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TOWARDS A SOCIETY FOR ALL

66 Relevant sectoral strategies towards a better world for all in have in fact been designed: "Food for All" (FAO), "Health for All" (WHO), "Education for All" (UNESCO), "Work for All" (ILO), "Shelter for All" (Habitat) and the Agenda 21 of UNCED.

67 Better integration of all global development strategies must be achieved. There is only one world for all and it is not divided according to the sectoral mandates of international organizations. Social development can take place only through an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to development planning, development cooperation and resource sharing.

68 There is an urgent need to integrate these strategies at the national level under the umbrella of a "STRATEGY TOWARDS A SOCIETY FOR ALL". Sectoral, piece-meal programs must be replaced with an integrated policy approach. The Rio Conference catchword "Think globally, act locally!" could serve as a functional working principle at all levels.

69 People-centered development can be facilitated by turning the planning formulas upside down, starting with the involvement of the people concerned and involving experts just to design the technical solutions. Furthermore, it calls for the breaking of organizational pyramids and the reversal of the role of directors and administrators from masters to servants.

3.1. THE ROLE OF VARIOUS ACTORS AND CALL FOR COMMITMENT

70 The breaking of pyramids, decentralization, people's involvement and democratization and the allowing of diversity at local level do, however, require effective mechanisms, follow-up and appeal mechanisms regarding basic human rights. This role can effectively be assumed only by the highest legislative organs.

71 At international level, the United Nations, as the only universal intergovernmental organization, should strengthen its role as a standard setting organization devoted to and properly equipped for the monitoring and enforcing of universal human rights. The involvement of the non-governmental sector must be strengthened in the monitoring and program implementation.

72 At the national level, Governments should not be allowed to evade their role as the executing agency in securing the materialization of universal human rights for all. Lack of resources is not an excuse as long as Governments spend a high proportion of their financial and human resources on military purposes. There is an urgent need to realize that human security and development cannot be based on the classical militaristic doctrines. On the contrary, militaristic thinking and concepts are the primary threats to sustainable social development and the very future of humankind.

73 The non-governmental organizations should work for the empowerment of people to enable them to have a strong voice of their own towards Governments and International Governmental Organizations. The running of people's lives to suit the self-interest of a few political leaders and top bureaucrats can be fought only by joining forces at

the grass roots. If this is not done, "a society for the few" will result.

74 At the local level, communities should be encouraged to organize so as to assume a large measure of responsibility for their own members, to facilitate negotiations for resources from beyond their boundaries, and to play an active role in their own development, assisted in these objectives by the government decentralization of service delivery and by the NGOs working to these ends.

75 In local communities people are at the center of development and - eventually - misdevelopment. It is the community in which human security and equal opportunity are materialized or not.

76 People's development initiatives, as well as people in actual need of special assistance, should be supported in a decentralized manner in the community where they live rather than by hierarchic agencies under the remote control of Governmental bodies. A comprehensive community-based approach has proved to be cost-effective in triggering, fostering and sustaining social development processes. The cooperation of individuals and families, local NGOs, local business and the local public authorities is an effective instrument in the efforts to make the living environment people-centered. .

77 The community should get mobilized in:

- dissemination of information on the universal rights of people
- assessing the needs of people and particularly those at risk
- mobilizing the existing resources to meet the people's needs

78 The local community should mobilize grass roots support the work of the national NGOs in activities such as

- the advocacy of human rights
- the launching of relevant pilot projects as models of good practice
- pressure building on local authorities, concerned ministries, parliamentarians, the media, health and education professionals, social workers and families themselves
- training and information dissemination
- fund raising

79 The non- governmental organizations should also take active steps to make Governments accountable. National NGOs should monitor particularly the implementation of international Conventions, as well as the implementation of resolutions which the Government has sponsored in international organizations.

80 A strong civil society is a necessary check and balance to State power. It is a central element in efforts to make universal human rights come true. Active civil society is the vehicle through which it is possible adjust the structures and processes of society to adequately meet the needs and aspirations of all people.

81 Professionals, whether employed by governmental or non-governmental organizations, could facilitate the process by using their expertise to enable people to participate in and contribute to ongoing development.

82 Stable and functioning families are the main agents of sustainable social development because of their fundamental role as an intermediate body between individuals and society. Social progress implies the constant and dynamic interaction between family structure and functions and the larger social, economic, cultural and physical environment. Families and extended families should be supported to enable them to fulfill their functions.

83 While families are supported as units, the status of women and the human rights of children should be strongly protected from the paternalistic power structures and practices of society as such tendencies find their expressions also within families.

84 There are several forms of families and this diversity should be recognized and appreciated. Social security and dignity should also be ensured to people not having a family, particularly children and the elderly.

4. CONCLUSIONS

85 The enhancing of partnership in the diversity of people is a functioning principle towards peace and social development both at the national and at the international level. It is also the best guarantee of human security.

86 There is only one world, one world for all. A sustainable development process is possible only if it is initiated and supported on the world scale parallel to national efforts. There is an urgent need and an opportunity to reconsider the distribution of resources nationally and internationally and to accord higher priority to the prerequisites of human development and human security in all development plans. The "20-20" proposal by UNDP should be given serious consideration. It calls for a minimum of one fifth of the official development assistance (ODA) funds of the donor countries to be allocated to human priorities and correspondingly the allocation of 20% of national budgets of receiving countries to human priorities.

87 The complexity of the modern world, the chaotic nature of the social, economic and political processes that has to be dealt with at all levels call for a new way of thinking. Social engineering by experts must be replaced by a participatory approach. There is a need to replace control by cooperation. The economic selfishness of the rich and the powerful must be combatted. The ecological and social limits to population growth and wasteful consumption must be realized. In the new social agenda for action, simple piece-meal proposals should be avoided and flexible solutions sought that will result in sustainable development for all.

THE TAMPERE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

All human beings are created equal. But each person is different. It is the legitimate role of governments to ensure the equality and to respect the differences. Governments have the obligation to protect the poor and those who work on their behalf, but all too often they act in the interest of rich, influential or privileged minorities, thereby increasing impoverishment and marginalisation. This small planet, which is the common inheritance of all human beings and the bequest which we will pass on to future generations, can only become a true home for all of us if all governments at all levels adopt and enforce humane values. In the global society which is emerging today, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) help to express and promote the needs and aspirations of people for full participation in society and equal access to society's resources. NGOs are the backbone of the civil society which is necessary to fully realize the promise of political democracy. The cooperation - and conflicts - between these two components of society (governments and NGOs) are essential for the safeguarding and advancement of human rights.

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a membership organization which has 66 years of experience in advocacy of social justice and social development throughout the world. Its purpose is to help its members to network effectively, to derive fundamental principles from their various endeavors and vigorously to bring these principles to the attention of governments, inter-governmental organizations and the general public by means of education and political action. To better achieve this goal, the ICSW has adopted a new mission statement which is designed to focus ICSW's work on supporting the work of NGOs at the local, regional and global level and to improve the effectiveness of its advocacy efforts. The aim of ICSW in the coming decade is to move systematically from vision to policy, from policy to programmes and from programmes to action - including monitoring of the commitments made by governments at the **UN World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, March 1995**.

Although there has been considerable economic growth, democratic development and technological advancement in many parts of the world during recent years, no country has

met fully met the standards set forth in **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. In many areas of the world, people and peoples are deprived of even rudimentary social, political, economic and civil rights. Nowhere have poverty and discrimination been eliminated, and in many regions they are the rule rather than the exception. This situation has become a major impediment to human progress and, in certain cases, even a cause of armed conflict: in a world which is increasingly interconnected, social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights cannot be restricted to certain classes and regions. If they are to be secure anywhere, they must be secure everywhere.

All human beings have, by their very nature, the potential and the will to be active agents of their own lives rather than objects of the power of others or of anonymous structures. Key elements of social development are expressed in such goals as: food for all, shelter for all, health for all, education for all and meaningful participation for all.

Experience shows that some groups of people are at particular risk of being deprived of equal opportunity and the right of self-development. Among these groups are: children, women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, rural populations, indigenous peoples and other ethnic and religious minorities. Strategies for social development must begin by recognizing the particular vulnerability of such groups. But fragmented programmes aimed exclusively at narrow target-groups will have no lasting success. The support and nurturing of grass-roots initiatives rather than tutelage and charity point the way to a more humane future. Power for the few is inconsistent with social development for all.

The **UN World Summit on Social Development** is an opportunity for the world community to open a new chapter in global social development. The ICSW calls upon the world community, represented in the **UN World Summit on Social Development**, to recognize and act upon the insight that poverty and social injustice are not only intolerable from the ethical and humanistic point of view, *but in fact constitute a political time-bomb* which must be defused as a matter of urgent political priority before it unleashes a deadly chain-reaction of destructiveness for the entire human race. It is not enough to oppose the most extreme cases of injustice, impoverishment, discrimination and violence on an *ad hoc* basis. Just as the UN Conference on Environment and Development raised consciousness on the global context of environmental issues, so the **UN World Summit on Social Development** should raise consciousness on the global context of social development. The catch-phrase of the Rio Conference "Think globally, act locally!" is equally applicable in the field of social development. But the reverse is also necessary: "Think locally, act globally!". The ICSW is well positioned to foster both approaches on the firm foundation of its international network and if its members' activities and experience at the local level.

An integrated and integrative approach to social development calls for a society that is pluralistic and tolerant at all levels, that accommodates people's differences and enables all to participate in social, cultural, religious and economic activities, taking fully into account the right to equal opportunities of future generations as well. The goal must be sustainable social development (including human development), not economic growth for its own sake.

The diversity of people and peoples must be understood as a strength and an opportunity rather than an irritant. Differences based on age, gender, colour, religious or cultural background, ability and so on are to be respected and nurtured, rather than suppressed. Violence, intolerance and xenophobia must be vigorously opposed wherever they occur. War is the exact opposite of sustainable social development. It should be recognized and denounced by the world community for what it is: the ultimate obscenity.

Some basic functions in society can only be performed and ensured by central authorities. Ultimately government is responsible to ensure that all people are equally entitled and enabled to exercise their universal human rights. Beyond the securing of civil liberties, protection from violence and discrimination and the right of privacy, these include cultural, religious, social and economic entitlements. In order to enable the exercising of equal opportunity by those with special needs, the public authorities must make available and affordable a mix of complementary social services. Regarding the actual production and distribution of necessities and complementary services, there should be a diversity of functional instruments and a division of labour between public authorities, the market, NGOs and other intermediate institutions, communities, families and individuals themselves.

ICSW will be an active partner in this diversity. In cooperation with its members, other NGOs, public authorities and even private business at the local, regional and global level, it will attempt to monitor progress on the goals enunciated at the **UN World Summit on Social Development** with a particular view toward proactive measures. But it will also not hesitate to call for remedial action when necessary. Based upon its long tradition of promoting social justice and social development and its global network, the ICSW declares its determination to undertake specific tasks in the follow-up to the **UN World Summit on Social Development**. These are:

- to remind governments of their obligations and commitments and to denounce failures and short-comings while supporting and propagating examples of positive government action;

- to be an honest and audible voice of people and their specific expressions of their authentic needs and aspirations through member organisations at the local level as well as through educational and political activity at the global level;
- to empower, through the activities of its member organisations, individuals and groups which are disadvantaged, exploited, vulnerable or otherwise confronted with hardship;
- to enable organisations to engage in effective action for positive change at all levels;
- to identify and promote success stories and to repudiate disaster stories in the non-governmental sector.