

The challenge of implementing the right to development in the 1990s

Report of the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right¹

I. International legal aspects of the right to development as a human right

Since the Declaration on the Right to Development was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1986, international lawyers have expressed concern about a variety of theoretical and technical aspects of the right to development. Some of these views were reflected in the introductory statements made by legal experts at the Global Consultation. While not challenging the concept or casting doubt on its value and validity as a human right, these concerns have centred on three questions: What is the exact substance of the right to development? Who are its beneficiaries? and How can it be implemented within and by the human rights programme?

A number of legal observations were made on the substance and content of the right to development.

¹ In accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/45, the Secretary-General organized in Geneva from 8 to 12 January 1990 a global consultation on the realization of the right to development, to focus on the fundamental problems posed by the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the criteria and mechanisms for identifying, evaluating and stimulating progress. Forty-eight papers were presented by leading authorities from all regions; senior United Nations officials made statements and 32 speakers took the floor. Fifty-one countries sent representatives, as did 12 United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and international organizations and 40 non-governmental organizations. This chapter reproduces paragraphs 77-207 of the report on the Global Consultation submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session (E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1), edited for the present publication. Footnotes have been omitted.

A distinction was made, on the one hand, between the interdependence and interrelationship of all human rights, including the right to development, and the consequent demand for respect for human rights in the development process and, on the other hand, the separate content of the right to development. With regard to the latter category, a human right should not be confused with the status and rules of the international economic order, which was an area traditionally assigned to inter-State relations, even though that order might favour one group over another. Nevertheless, the international community had an obligation to intervene and correct obstacles to the right to development to the degree that they could be clearly and specifically identified. Additional obstacles included massive and flagrant violations of human rights and threats of war and of continued damage to the environment.

Relating to the beneficiaries of the right to development, objections were raised to States being considered as beneficiaries because a State could not by definition be the subject of a human right. Instead, emphasis was placed on the individual and collective rights aspects of the 1986 Declaration, which indeed referred to the human person as the central subject of development. Further difficulties of a legal nature were brought up in connection with the identification of the content of the individual's right to development. Apart from the realization of individual rights in the

civil, cultural, economic, political and social fields, which were integral to the right to development, the exact substance of an implementable individual right to development could not be easily discerned.

With regard to collective beneficiaries, the term “people” likewise raised difficult questions. Although it had been recognized and more clearly defined in the context of the right to self-determination, the beneficiaries of the two rights to development and self-determination did not necessarily coincide. The problem of who was to be considered as representing the “people” in the right to development context was also discussed, especially as the appearance of non-governmental delegates in that capacity would necessarily overlap or even contradict the role of States as guarantors of the same right. Finally, although the Declaration on the Right to Development did not expressly make such a reference, it was generally felt that the term “people” should encompass groups within the State, such as indigenous peoples and minorities, as far as the right to development was concerned.

The question of the implementation at the international level was also addressed. In this respect, and keeping in mind the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 containing guidelines for United Nations human rights standard-setting activities, the 1986 Declaration was found to be lacking the precision necessary for specific implementation; further, the Declaration had not set up any machinery for that purpose. Consequently, the usefulness of the right to development from a legal point of view was open to question. These observations resulted in extensive discussions about possible implementation methods which are reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultation.

Regarding the interdependence of human rights, considerable attention was given to the global concept of human rights. The importance of respect for all human rights in the development process was repeatedly underlined, including such civil and political rights as the rights to life, liberty and security of person; the rights and freedoms relating to opinion, expression and information; independence of the judiciary; and other rights and freedoms essential in a democratic society. Popular participation at all levels of development, beginning at the grass roots, was likewise found to be a necessary and fundamental component of development for and by the people involved. Participation was said to be an ideal vehicle for giving people a say in the content and form of development

and for transforming the collective aspect of the right to development into individual rights.

In discussing the issue of obligations under the Declaration on the Right to Development, reference was made to both States and the international community, as clearly spelled out in the Declaration. Recognizing that rights could be both absolute and progressive in nature and acknowledging that States could not be expected to render positive services related to the right to development if they had no available resources, the role and obligation of the international community were emphasized, in particular intergovernmental organizations promoting human rights and development. In that connection, references were made to article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the so-called international law of cooperation which was based on the idea that there were common values which could not be satisfied by means other than cooperation, including the creation of international and national conditions which would make implementation possible.

II. Human rights and the realization of the right to development as a human right

The papers presented to the Consultation and the discussions under every item on the agenda underlined the importance of human rights to the realization of the right to development. Massive and flagrant violations of human rights, apartheid and other violations of human rights were serious obstacles to development. On the other hand, one of the constituent elements of development understood as a human right was respect for and promotion of the human rights of the individual.

A. Massive and flagrant violations of human rights

Massive and flagrant violations of human rights were identified as a major stumbling block to the realization of the right to development. It was pointed out that they arose from aggression and occupation of foreign territories, policies of genocide and apartheid, racism and racial discrimination, colonialism and the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination and development without external interference. All forms of slavery, the slave trade, the arms race and pollution of the environment were seen to be threats to development. The Declaration on the Right to Development, it was observed, regarded international peace and

security as essential elements for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of massive and flagrant violations of human rights as a prerequisite for development. That provision had a sound legal basis since a number of the internationally illegal acts referred to above had been recognized as international crimes in many international documents. It was pointed out that the International Law Commission, in drafting articles on State responsibility, had also been considering ecocide as an international crime.

It was also observed that the uneven character of economic development among countries and peoples, which in the case of developing countries was further exacerbated by the external debt burden, also constituted a threat to humanity. It was pointed out that not only did certain internationally illegal acts constitute massive and flagrant violations of human rights, but so also did unemployment, starvation, poverty and the absence of access to health services and education. If both civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights were to be realized, the basic task of the international community would be to help to make available to all peoples and human beings the right to development under conditions of peace and international security. It was suggested that the United Nations should elaborate and adopt a binding comprehensive convention on the right of peoples and every human being to development. That instrument should envisage the creation of a corresponding mechanism to evaluate the levels of development of States and to monitor the realization of agreed-upon obligations.

B. Apartheid

In addressing this issue, it was emphasized that the right to development was inclusive: it involved all the people in a country irrespective of race, colour, creed, sex or age. Apartheid, being a system which had separate development of the races as a goal, not only violated this right politically, economically, socially and culturally, but also violated other fundamental human rights. It was emphasized that violations of human rights by the South African regime were not just a chance aberration in the working of a system, but rather the deliberate functioning of a well-thought-out policy whose theoretical justification was debated long before it was put into effect.

Apartheid created racial tensions and misunderstandings which undermined the cooperation necessary for a healthy development. In explaining how

apartheid had had negative impacts on economic and political development, reference was made to the Race Classification Act, the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Areas Act, the Bantu Education Act and the Bantustan or Homeland policy. The Homelands, it was pointed out, were a reservoir of cheap labour and dumping grounds for the old, sick and unemployable. Apartheid violated a range of human rights, respect of which was a precondition for the realization of the right to development. Those rights included the right to live at the place of one's choice, the right to free movement, the right to a decent family life, the right to human dignity, the right to be free from fear of arrest, deportation or ejection from one's dwelling. The result of apartheid had been misery and suffering for the black people of South Africa, the disruption of families and communities, poor living conditions for workers, high death rates in the mines due to accidents, high infant mortality, deterioration of health conditions and the denial of access to education.

The impact that the system of apartheid has had on the economic development of the region was described with reference to the aggressive wars waged against the front-line States by South Africa in defence of apartheid. South Africa's policy of destabilization had caused the destruction of their infrastructure, diversion of enormous sums of money from development to defence, high infant mortality, the mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons, famine and malnutrition.

The dismantling of apartheid was without any doubt a precondition for a normal, healthy, political, social, economic and cultural development that would include and involve the whole population. In that context, attention was drawn to the call of black leaders of the struggle against apartheid, both inside and outside South Africa, for the immediate imposition of United Nations comprehensive mandatory sanctions against that country.

C. Individual human rights

Respect for individual human rights was a constitutive element of the concept of the right to development. And, through the Declaration on the Right to Development, the idea of linking the process of development and individual human rights had gained international legitimacy and broad support. On the question of whether or not the concept of the right to development strengthened or undermined respect for human rights, reference was made to article 28 of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stated that an appropriate social and international order was required for the full realization of human rights. The recognition of, and respect for, individual human rights was, however, demanded without any precondition. Moreover, the primary importance of the right to development lay in its understanding of development as a comprehensive social process which would lead to the full realization of human rights through a process that respected individual human rights.

Attention was also drawn to the current phenomenon at the time of the diminishing ideological element in matters regarding national and international development policies. In the search for new values, participants understood the importance of perceiving development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process aiming at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and all individuals. In other words, respect for human rights should become an essential criterion for the assessment of the success of national and international development policies. Measurement of the realization of the right to development should, therefore, include the utilization of precise and objective criteria of achievement in the field of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Several concrete proposals were discussed relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development within the framework of the United Nations. Compatibility of United Nations activities with the Declaration should be ensured by adopting appropriate guidelines within all operational programmes and by using human rights impact studies in the approval and evaluation of all projects. That process should involve the effective and meaningful participation of non-governmental organizations, in particular grass-roots organizations. It was also felt that greater cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other appropriate bodies would be necessary in providing technical advice and guidance. An appropriate system of indicators for the assessment of progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights should be further developed and adopted.

Finally, practical measures should be undertaken to strengthen the international system for promotion, protection and implementation of human rights in general. They should include the development of an efficient system of response to emergency situations involv-

ing gross violations of human rights, strengthening the role of the Secretary-General to exercise humanitarian good offices in human rights cases, strengthening non-governmental organization participation and the development of operational approaches to deal with situations involving problems of minorities, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.

III. Specific aspects of the implementation of the right to development as a human right

The second point on the agenda of the Global Consultation was a review of specific examples of the respect for human rights as an integral factor in promoting development and the problems faced in that regard. In connection with that discussion the following points were made.

A. Women

Ensuring equality for women in development and their contribution to the development process posed many different problems. Despite the recognition of equal rights for women in international instruments, they were often undermined by culturally sanctioned inequalities between men and women or through actions involving short-term gains at the expense of long-term freedom and equity. Figures on income distribution, the structure of the labour force and wages, education and political participation from a 1980 World Bank report were cited to describe the extent of inequality and exploitation faced by women. It had become obvious that development projects that disregarded, threatened or undermined women rather than contributing to their advancement violated their human rights.

A number of serious problems had been encountered with respect to women. Firstly, development experts from Western industrialized countries had been men acting without regard for women's traditional roles in production and decision-making and training packages had likewise focused on men and the establishment of a global economic order serving the needs of Western industrialized countries. Secondly, development itself had become a source of violations of women's rights as much as it had been a source of promoting women's equality. That had occurred, for example, through projects characterized by their benign neglect of women but which subtly reinforced discrimination against women by ignoring traditional gender divisions of labour, placing the

burden on women to implement the projects and by creating inequalities in access to external resources or services generated by the projects; through projects that paid lip service to women's equality yet took advantage of culturally, religiously and socially sanctioned inequalities as they sought short-term gains in production or industrialization; through projects specially aimed at benefiting women but which marginalized and compartmentalized women's development from national economic and social development.

It was discussed that steps could be taken towards bringing about women's right to development as a human right. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) came into being and continued to exist because of the need to change the vastly unequal situation of women in social, political and economic relations. The General Assembly had created UNIFEM with two key mandates. The first was to serve as a catalyst to ensure the involvement of women in mainstream development activities at national, regional and international levels. The second was to support innovative and experimental activities which benefited women and were in line with national and regional priorities.

As a catalyst, UNIFEM provided resources to extend and strengthen national Governments' abilities to involve women in the national development planning process. For instance, in Honduras, UNIFEM participated in the development of a national policy for women. The development of that document served as a pilot experience for other countries in the region and the Government of Honduras would share its ideas through documentation and workshops.

In that context, all institutions and individuals were called upon to promote women's right to development, for development that violated women's rights was not development. It was suggested that that be done through monitoring operational programmes and policies of Governments, organizations and institutions; serving as catalysts for women's empowerment; and by exposing and condemning projects which required and perpetuated the exploitation of women. Such tasks were not easy but would eventually contribute to equitable development and respect for human dignity.

B. Indigenous peoples

The experience of indigenous peoples and development clearly demonstrated that human rights and development were inseparable, for the abuse

of the rights of indigenous peoples was principally a development issue. Forced development had deprived them of their human rights, in particular the right to life and the right to their own means of subsistence, two of the most fundamental of all rights. Indigenous peoples had in fact been victims of development policies which deprived them of their economic base—land and resources—and they were almost never the beneficiaries.

It was underlined that the most destructive and prevalent abuses of indigenous rights were a direct consequence of development strategies that failed to respect the fundamental right of self-determination. Using illustrations, participants described how indigenous people were routinely perceived as obstacles to development and excluded from decision-making in matters that affected them. The result had been the elimination and degradation of the indigenous land base; destruction, degradation and removal of natural resources, waters, wildlife, forests and food supplies from indigenous lands either through commercial exploitation or incompatible land use; the degradation of the natural environment; removal of indigenous peoples from their lands; and their displacement or pre-emption from the use of their lands by outsiders.

In order to ensure the protection of the social and cultural environment of indigenous peoples, it was recognized that sustainable development must also be equitable from an indigenous viewpoint. Access to relevant national and international forums was considered an urgent necessity. Recommendations were also made for the assessment (or audit) of social and environmental impacts of development programmes and projects on the basis of internationally approved standards. These standards should have as their priority respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of self-determination; require that those affected be beneficiaries of the proposed development; take into consideration the programmes' long-term and non-monetary effects; require that full consideration be given to alternative means to realize the same benefits; require efforts to meeting indigenous economic and social requisites as well as conventional criteria; require that a positive or negative recommendation following an assessment be a determining factor in any decision to permit international financing; and, finally, require that the project or programme be halted subsequent to a negative recommendation.

The experience of the home rule system for Greenland and ways in which the indigenous peo-

ples of that island were allowed to determine their own economic, social and cultural development was described in detail as an evolutionary process leading to a large degree of local autonomy.

C. The extremely poor

Experience with the extremely poor in developing and developed countries demonstrated clearly that extreme poverty involved a denial of the totality of human rights, civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural. Freedom without respect for economic, social and cultural rights was an illusion. Poverty, by endangering all individual rights, prevented people from assuming not only their duties as individuals, but also their collective duties as citizens, parents, workers and electors. In the rich countries, for instance, a person without an official address could not exercise the right to vote or find meaningful employment; in the absence of education, freedom of opinion and association were dead letters; without housing or resources, freedom of movement became nothing more than consignment to a vagrant life, and the right to a family was denied by making it impossible to raise one's own children.

Attention was drawn to the Wresinski report [on extreme poverty and economic and social needs, submitted on behalf of the Economic and Social Council of France (1987)] which had been drafted in consultation with the extremely poor themselves and which had provided a modern description of economic and social vulnerability and poverty in human rights terms, applicable to individuals, peoples and States. That report showed that economic and social vulnerability led to extreme poverty when it affected several areas of existence, became persistent and seriously compromised the chances of restoring one's rights and responsibilities in the foreseeable future.

The central role to be played by the extremely poor themselves in exposing their situation and bringing their concerns to the attention of the public and, in particular, the international community was described. Participation was crucial to the realization of the right to development and to all human rights. The history of the relatively advanced democracies had demonstrated that principles such as "democracy" and "participation" had been applied in too general a manner to reach the extremely poor. If human and democratic rights were to be enjoyed by all, priority should be given to the extremely poor, particularly with regard to the means of democratic participation. However,

simple declarations of principles were insufficient. To succeed, they must be accompanied by efforts to improve knowledge and understanding of extreme poverty in partnership with those directly affected. In that context, references were made to efforts being undertaken by the Council of Europe and the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the European Economic Community.

In conclusion, attention was drawn to the fact that the short-term objectives of most development projects had led to greater isolation of the extremely poor. The following measures were proposed to remedy the situation: rely on initiatives of the people themselves; support local associations working with the extremely poor; invest resources, in particular human resources, in extremely poor areas; and involve the people directly affected in all stages of the project cycle and programmes.

IV. The realization of the right to development as a human right at the national level

A. National development policies

Throughout the discussions of the Consultation, emphasis was placed on the key role played by national conditions, policies and programmes in the realization of the right to development as a human right. An important element in success at the national level in realizing the right to development was the adoption of appropriate development strategies which in fact furthered respect for human rights. It was repeatedly underlined that in the past development strategies which relied too heavily on centrally planned command economies or which were oriented merely towards economic growth and guided by purely financial considerations failed to achieve the realization of the right to development. It was for each people to determine its own approach to development in conformity with international human rights standards; no one model for development was adequate or appropriate for all cultures and peoples.

A number of basic elements were necessary in national development policies if real development in the human rights sense was to be achieved. Democracy and participation were seen as important elements in national development strategies. Such strategies should also include explicit provisions for the realization of all human rights.

B. Participation

The central role of participation in the Declaration on the Right to Development was underlined. Participation was a condition for the exercise of many other human rights, and might be of particular importance among people with traditional cultures in which individual rights tended to be defined in relation to the community. Reference was made to countries with weak national constitutions and excessive bureaucratization, where participation was limited to occasional elections. The relationship between political participation, the right to work and equal access to resources was emphasized. The role of popular organizations had to be understood not only in the context of the structure of power within the country, but also at the international level. The poorest people of a poor country faced the greatest obstacles to effective participation.

Where powerful economic, ethnic or regional interests interfered with the democratic functioning of the State, popular organizations often played a crucial role in assuring access to essential services such as health care. In one country, where there was considerable inequality in the distribution of wealth and necessities of life, the activities of peasant communes, agrarian cooperatives and a wide variety of urban organizations, including "microenterprises", were described. In another country, economic reforms of the 1970s had given such organizations greater opportunities and influence in the economy, but a number of problems related to control of productive resources such as land and the legal status or legal capacity of popular organizations had arisen in that context.

C. Intermediate structures

Regarding the issue of participation, it was noted that the Declaration on the Right to Development did not explicitly refer to "mediating structures" or "intermediary groups", nor did it exclude such groups. The meaning of the Declaration would have to evolve in practice, and reference was made to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, with its notion of African historical traditions and values, as a fertile source of law on the role of intermediary groups. Reference was also made to the third Convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (Lomé III Convention), which recognized the role of grass-roots communities and self-help organizations as mediating structures, and to the African Alternative Framework

to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, which conceived of a genuine and active partnership between Governments and the people through their various institutions at the national, local and grass-roots levels.

A distinction was made between "active" and "passive" forms of participation. "Passive" participation was merely a managerial technique, while "active" participation involved empowerment. Active participation depended on awareness-raising and organization-building. While it was generally acknowledged that intermediary groups had become indispensable for sustainable development, the identification of such groups must retain a dynamic character and could not be settled by a simple, positivist legal approach. The political standing and social function of those groups would nonetheless have to be translated eventually into legal terms, especially where different groups made competing claims on resources.

D. Changes in the concept of the welfare State and its impact on the right to development

The welfare society had been characterized by an effort to combine the concern for free and active participation of all its individuals and the need for equality in sharing the benefits deriving from the total activity of the society. That posed a dilemma: a strong State tended to reduce freedom of choice of participation by the individual, but a weak State tended to result in a highly unequal enjoyment of the benefits resulting from the economic activities of the society as a whole. Overextended States and bureaucracies, highly centralized economies and military dictatorships undermined individual participation in development.

Since the individual was the central subject of development, the individual must take responsibility for her or his own welfare to the extent possible. To implement the right to development, States had a responsibility first to respect the freedom of the individual to take action; second, to protect individuals and their resources against other, more assertive or aggressive actors; and third, to assist in the fulfilment of welfare needs by providing assistance to create equal opportunities for individuals or groups and through the direct provision of resources. Consequently, national development programmes should aim explicitly at minimizing disparities between

different groups of society and their elaboration should be based on grass-roots initiatives.

E. Legal assistance

Equal access to justice, for rich and poor alike, was crucial for respect for the primacy of the law. Consequently, it was essential to provide adequate legal assistance to all those who, threatened in respect of their lives, their freedom, their property or their reputation, were not in a position to remunerate a lawyer. But above and beyond the traditional legal assistance usually restricted to criminal cases, the rural populations must be helped to use the law as an instrument for the realization of their rights. Although it was true that the law could be and had been used, misused and abused to institutionalize property and privilege, exploitation and inequality, it could also be properly used to establish social justice and equality, participation and autonomy. In order to do that, however, the law must be the will of the peoples themselves; the consecration of the right of participation in public affairs.

Concern for justice and respect for human rights tended to argue in favour of a development strategy focused on rural populations. Irrespective of the extent of their information concerning their rights, they often had neither the means nor the resources needed to exercise them. Consequently, the right to development could not have a profound meaning at the practical level for rural populations. In order to reverse that trend, it was determined that the concept of the right to development could and should serve as a basis for the adoption of laws and procedures intended to eliminate conditions of underdevelopment or, at the very least, to help overcome the obstacles to development.

In view of the role of jurists in the development process, two questions arose in the context of the third world countries. First, how could one bridge the huge gap separating jurists from the overwhelming majority of the populations? Second, how could one help those populations to gain access to the legal resources necessary in order to enjoy the right to development? The answers to those questions hinged on the three components "development", "law" and "legal resources".

With regard to development, the fundamental issue was the assistance to be given to the rural masses to enable them to determine their priorities themselves, to identify the obstacles to achieving those priorities and to select the methods of achieving them.

In other words, the development of the rural population presupposed that they would take their destiny into their own hands; from this viewpoint, the contribution of the law and jurists was desirable, and indeed vital.

On the question of law, it seemed that most of the countries of the third world had copied the various branches of Western law. Further, that extraverted law was often used to maintain the status quo so that it frequently proved to be incapable of reflecting contemporary society and its aspirations. The law was not static, but changed with society and could serve to bring about change and progress. From that standpoint, the law could constitute a resource for rural populations with a view to bringing about a change in their conditions and for development in general. Legal resources constituted the expertise and functional competence allowing those who worked together and in cooperation with other groups to understand the legal system and to use it effectively in order to promote their objectives. They created and strengthened the incitement to and capacity for collective action with a view to promoting and defending common interests. The importance of a knowledge of the law as a vital element in the process culminating in collective self-sufficiency had been underscored. In Africa, Asia and Latin America alike, efforts had been made towards the introduction of legal assistance projects for the destitute populations of the rural areas.

The impact of legal assistance on the economic and social development of rural populations was considerable. Those populations would be in a position to make constructive use of favourable legal provisions capable of neutralizing unjust laws and practices, and even to become generators of rights and agents in social and civic life. When people know their rights, they are able to replace their feelings of alienation, resignation and dependence by a new awareness of their dignity and their rights—a precondition for self-sufficiency.

With regard to legal resources at the national level to ensure that policies and procedures respected the right to development, attention was drawn to the seminar on the judiciary and human rights in Africa of the African Association of International Law, which was held in Banjul on 17 November 1989. That seminar made an appeal to African States and peoples to take measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, *inter alia* (a) to democratize the national policy and institutions as a precondition and funda-

mental basis for the full enjoyment of civil, political, socioeconomic and cultural rights; (b) to promote and raise the level of consciousness of the African peoples and to disseminate information on human rights; (c) to pay special attention to the situation of women, children, the aged and other disadvantaged groups; (d) to guarantee the absolute independence and integrity of the judiciary; (e) to ensure equal access to legal aid, to the courts and other juridical and legal bodies; (f) to encourage the creation and effective functioning of independent bodies and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional and subregional levels; (g) to ensure the independence and autonomy of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; (h) to guarantee the protection, well-being and security of refugees, migrants and stateless persons; (i) to give effect to the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

F. International dimensions of national development policies

Looking at national development policies from an international perspective revealed a contradiction between the actual global order as it functioned and the objective of real development based on interdependence. One dominant development thesis maintained that development was only possible through interdependence that was governed by the laws of the globalized economy, which was reduced to the concept of global opening to the "market". However, the global markets for commodities, services, capital, technology and labour were all characterized by structural inequalities. Such markets, in which capital was mobile while labour alone was immobile, could not harmonize social conditions and overcome world polarization. In that regard, one should keep in mind the political, military and cultural dimensions of globalization which underlay inequalities in relations between States, nations and peoples. The balance of power in the world was evolving from one based on two super-Powers to one that was multipolar but excluded countries and regions of the third world. The ideal of the right to development, which was based on the collective rights of peoples, nations and other forms of collectivities, could well be in contradiction with the structure of the global market, which tended to benefit the centre at the expense of the periphery, that is the poorer countries. Unless those conflicting requirements were resolved at the level of collective entities such as regions, villages, families, minorities, women, etc., the right to self-determination would apply only

to States and the right to development only to the centre.

V. Realization of the right to development as a human right at the international level

A number of general and specific suggestions concerning the introduction of new international efforts and the coordination of existing activities were made during the Consultation's discussions. Many of these proposals were based on or had grown out of the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which indeed addressed the issue; others foresaw more extensive mechanisms and procedures in order to give effect to the right to development.

In order to introduce and solidify human rights standards in the development process, a series of suggestions were made with regard to the ongoing and upcoming activities of international and regional organizations in the field of development. It was suggested that broad cooperation and coordination between intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions be established so that human rights would become a permanent factor in all economic, social and cultural programmes and development projects.

The issues for discussion in this wide range of international forums included structural adjustment, external debt burdens, the marketing and pricing of export commodities, access to and sharing of technology, extreme poverty and other aspects of the international economic system. All of those issues required a human rights input. A linkage of that kind between human rights and economic issues so deeply affecting development would greatly facilitate and strengthen respect for human rights in general and the right to development in particular. The concept of human resources development, by its very nature and as part of international development strategies, called for human rights components based on existing standards and Government commitments.

In the context of international development work, the need for criteria or indicators for evaluating progress was addressed. While some participants preferred to emphasize the minimum conditions necessary for human survival, others felt that all human rights were essential to human development and that a short list or prioritization of rights should not be considered in relation to the realization of the right to development. For example, an analysis of the

qualitative aspects of changes in material conditions, such as food and shelter, should also ensure that such changes were not accompanied by a decrease in local control or self-reliance or by a significant growth of inequalities. Other participants stressed the importance of evaluating the process of development itself, not simply its results or fruits. References were made to a variety of factors such as access to basic resources, control of the workplace, participation in decision-making concerning development and the availability of information, which indicated the extent to which people were able to set their own goals for development and to pursue them freely and participate actively in the process of realization.

The role of non-governmental organizations in the realization of the right to development was stressed. Their traditional and significant participation in international activities for the promotion of both human rights and development would be further strengthened, to the benefit of all, if they were effectively to link those two sectors of work under the umbrella of the right to development. To that end, non-governmental organizations should increase cooperation and coordination among themselves, as well as with the intergovernmental community. Furthermore, contributions should be encouraged from as many non-governmental organizations as possible including those not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; that had been the case in the Global Consultation and was the practice of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and had shown positive results.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations emerging from the Global Consultation

During the course of the Global Consultation numerous ideas and proposals were brought forward and discussed. It emerged clearly from the Consultation that the subject of the right to development as a human right was related in a complex and interdependent way to many other areas of human activity and that that complex interrelationship was only gradually being understood.

With regard to the Consultation itself, numerous participants welcomed the opportunity it provided to focus the attention of an audience reflecting a wide spectrum of world opinion on the problems and challenges posed by the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development. They also wel-

comed the participation and contribution of a number of organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and its Non-Governmental Organization Liaison Service, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as the participation of the Organization of African Unity and the Commission of the European Communities.

Participants expressed appreciation for the introductory statements made by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Chairman of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development and the Secretary of the NGO Special Committee on Racism and Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization; the presentation made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, in which he underscored the importance of the integration of human rights into the development process was particularly welcomed.

Participants also expressed their appreciation for the very valuable contribution made to the Consultation by the experts who presented papers on the Consultation's major themes.

Appreciation was also expressed for the documents submitted to the Consultation by speakers, participants and observers and in particular for the background paper concerning the development of the principles in the Declaration on the Right to Development in the various United Nations human rights instruments and studies (HR/RD/1990/CONF.1) prepared for the Centre for Human Rights by Tamara Kunanayakam, who was also thanked for her work in preparing the Consultation.

Many participants expressed disappointment that a number of intergovernmental bodies with special responsibility in the field of development did not attend, including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Health Organization

(WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Food Council (WFC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The hope was expressed that they would take a more active role in future programmes and activities for the implementation of the right to development, and that special efforts would be made to inform those bodies of the report and recommendations of the Global Consultation; it was felt that only through the active cooperation of all could progress be made.

The specific conclusions and recommendations set out below found a wide echo among the participants. They are not exhaustive nor do they necessarily fully reflect the views of all the participants or the organizations represented. They may well provide the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations bodies with a basis for considering action. This is a first step towards a better understanding of the right to development as a human right and the complexity of the subject will require much further analysis and discussion.

A. Conclusions

1. The content of the right to development as a human right

The right to development is the right of individuals, groups and peoples to participate in, contribute to and enjoy continuous economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. This includes the right to effective participation in all aspects of development and at all stages of the decision-making process; the right to equal opportunity and access to resources; the right to fair distribution of the benefits of development; the right to respect for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to an international environment in which all these rights can be fully realized. All of the elements of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including human rights, are complementary and interdependent and they apply to all human beings, regardless of their citizenship.

Development is not only a fundamental right but a basic human need, which fulfils the aspirations of all people to achieve the greatest possible freedom and dignity, both as individuals and as members of the societies in which they live.

The human person is the central subject rather than a mere object of the right to development. The enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is both the necessary condition and aim of the right to development. Thus, States must not only take concrete steps to improve economic, social and cultural conditions and to facilitate the efforts of individuals and groups for that objective, but must do so in a manner that is democratic in its formulation and in its results. A development strategy that disregards or interferes with human rights is the very negation of development.

Recognition of the right to development and human rights in the national legal system is not sufficient in itself. States must also ensure the means for the exercise and enjoyment of these rights on a basis of equal opportunity.

Democracy at all levels (local, national and international) and in all spheres is essential to true development. Structural inequalities in international relations, as well as within individual countries, are obstacles to the achievement of genuine democracy and a barrier to development as defined by the Declaration. Fundamental to democratic participation is the right of individuals, groups and peoples to take decisions collectively and to choose their own representative organizations, and to have freedom of democratic action, free from interference.

A major goal of democracy is to achieve a just social order. To be fully effective, democracy itself depends upon the existence of a just and democratic social order, including a fair distribution of economic and political power among all sectors of national society and among all States and peoples and on the employment of such rights as freedom of expression, freedom of association and free elections.

The concept of participation is of central importance in the realization of the right to development. It should be viewed both as a means to an end and as an end in itself. Measures formulated to promote the right to development must focus on the democratic transformation of existing political, economic and social policies and structures which are conducive to the full and effective participation of all persons,

groups and peoples in decision-making processes. Special measures are required to protect the rights and ensure the full participation of particularly vulnerable sectors of society, such as children, rural people and the extremely poor, as well as those who have traditionally experienced exclusion or discrimination, such as women, minorities and indigenous peoples.

Participation, if it is to be effective in mobilizing human and natural resources and combating inequalities, discrimination, poverty and exclusion, must involve genuine ownership or control of productive resources such as land, financial capital and technology. Participation is also the principal means by which individuals and peoples collectively determine their needs and priorities and ensure the protection and advancement of their rights and interests.

The right to development is related to the right to self-determination, which has many aspects, both individual and collective. It involves both the establishment of States and the operation of States once they have been established. The mere formation of a State does not in itself fully realize the right to self-determination unless its citizens and constituent peoples continue to enjoy the right to their own cultural identity and to determine their own economic, social and political system through democratic institutions and actions, and the State genuinely enjoys continuing freedom of choice, within the bounds of international law. Universal respect for the principle of the non-use of force is a fundamental condition for the full realization of the right to development.

2. Human rights and development strategy

The struggle for human rights and development is a global one that continues in all countries, “developed” and “developing”, and must involve all peoples, including indigenous peoples, national, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities as well as all individuals and groups. International implementation and monitoring mechanisms must be of universal applicability.

Development strategies which have been oriented merely towards economic growth and financial considerations have failed to a large extent to achieve social justice; human rights have been infringed directly and through the depersonalization of social relations, the breakdown of families and communities and of social and economic life.

Development strategies which have relied too heavily on a centrally planned command economy, have excluded participation and have not provided opportunities for individuals and groups to take an active part in the economic life of the country have also often failed to achieve the realization of the right to development.

What constitutes “development” is largely subjective, and in this respect development strategies must be determined by the people themselves and adapted to their particular conditions and needs. No one model of development is universally applicable to all cultures and peoples. All development models, however, must conform to international human rights standards.

The world’s future can only be ensured if the global environment is adequately protected and restored. In addition, all cultures and peoples form part of the common heritage of humankind and have a dignity and value that must be respected. Both environmental and cultural considerations should therefore be an integral part of national, regional and international development strategies.

Indigenous peoples have been throughout history the victims of activities carried out in the name of national development. Their direct participation and consent in decisions regarding their own territories are thus essential to protect their right to development. In this regard, attention was drawn to the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States, held in Geneva from 16 to 20 January 1989 (see E/CN.4/1989/22).

In order to reverse the situation of growing inequalities in the world, affirmative action in favour of the disadvantaged groups and increased assistance to disadvantaged countries will be required. The removal of barriers to economic activities, such as trade liberalization, is not sufficient.

Peace, development and human rights are interdependent. Respect for and realization of human rights through the process of development is essential to national stability and the promotion of international peace and security. Development policies that disregard human rights, or which foster regional or international disparities, contribute to social, political and other conflicts and endanger international peace. The United Nations, based on the Charter’s mandate to

ensure international peace and security, thus has a major stake in the promotion of a concept of development which respects human rights.

The United Nations should take the lead in implementing the Declaration on the Right to Development. This means setting up mechanisms for ensuring the compatibility of all United Nations activities and programmes with the Declaration, according to its letter and intent. Development must be equitable from the viewpoint of the peoples, groups and individuals affected.

3. Obstacles to the implementation of the right to development as a human right

Failure to respect the right of peoples to self-determination and their right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources is a serious obstacle to the realization of the right to development as a human right.

Massive and flagrant violations of human rights and such phenomena as racial discrimination, apartheid and foreign occupation are also serious barriers preventing the realization of the right to development as a human right.

Disregard for human rights and fundamental freedoms and in particular the right to development can lead to conflict and instability, which in turn may undermine the economic conditions needed for development through phenomena such as the diversion of resources to military or police forces, capital flight, the demobilization of human resources, increased national dependence, indebtedness, involuntary emigration and environmental destruction.

Democracy is an essential element in the realization of the right to development and the failure to implement and respect the principles of democratic government has been shown to present a serious obstacle to the realization of the right to development.

The adoption of inappropriate or destructive development strategies, sometimes on the pretext that human rights must be sacrificed in order to achieve economic development, has been a further obstacle to the realization of the right to development. Prevailing models of development have been dominated by financial rather than human considerations. These models largely ignore the social, cultural and political aspects of human rights and human development, limiting the human dimension to questions of productivity.

They foster greater inequalities of power and control of resources among groups and lead to social tensions and conflicts. These tensions and conflicts are often the pretext used by States to justify placing restrictions on human rights, freedom of association, action and participation, and this in turn intensifies conflicts and perpetuates the denial of the right to development. Corruption is also an obstacle to the realization of the right to development.

Transfer of control of resources located in developing countries to interests in developed countries, which intensified in the 1980s, is another obstacle to development. Similarly, the growing burden of indebtedness and structural adjustment falls heaviest on the poorest and weakest sectors of society and has clear human rights implications.

Failure to take into account the principles of the right to development in agreements between States and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and commercial banks with regard to external debt repayment and structural adjustments frustrates the full realization of the right to development and of all human rights. The prevailing terms of trade, monetary policy and certain conditions tied to bilateral and multilateral aid, which are all perpetuated by the non-democratic decision-making processes of international economic, financial and trade institutions, also frustrate the full realization of the right to development as a human right.

Other obstacles to development can be found in the concentration of economic and political power in the most industrialized countries, the international division of labour and the functioning of the Bretton Woods institutions, the "brain drain" due to growing disparities in wages and income levels among countries, the restrictions on transfers of technology, certain forms of protectionism and the adverse effects of the consumption patterns of the more industrialized countries. The implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development should seek to overcome these obstacles.

Lack of communication between specialists in human rights, social development and economics, within the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations missions and national Governments, the academic community and non-governmental organizations, has impeded a full understanding of the Declaration of the Right to Development and its implementation.

4. Criteria which might be used to measure progress

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Declaration on the Right to Development and other international human rights instruments constitute the basic framework for formulating the criteria for determining progress in the implementation of the right to development as a human right.

The formulation of criteria for measuring progress in the realization of the right to development will be essential for the success of future efforts to implement that right. Such criteria must address the process of development as well as its results; quality as well as quantity; the individual as well as the social dimension of human needs; and material as well as intellectual and cultural needs. Both objective and subjective measurements must be included in any analysis.

These criteria for the right to development may be grouped under the following headings: conditions of life; conditions of work; equality of access to resources; and participation.

Conditions of life include basic material needs such as food, health, shelter, education, leisure and a safe and healthy environment as well as personal freedom and security. When applying criteria to these needs, care should be taken to account for quality as well as quantity. Food may be available abundantly, but may be nutritionally poor or culturally inappropriate; schools may be numerous and free but respond only to material and economic objectives and fail to provide an education which promotes the knowledge, the critical awareness, the analytical capability and the creativity necessary to enable human beings to shape their own environment.

Conditions of work include employment, extent of sharing in the benefits of work, income and its equitable distribution, and degree of participation in management. These factors relate not only to the amount of work and its remuneration, but also to the quality of work, worker control and subjective elements of satisfaction and empowerment.

The degree of *equality of opportunity of access to basic resources* as well as the fair distribution of the results of development are essential criteria for

measuring progress in the implementation of the right to development. Relevant indicators therefore must include the relative prices, accessibility and distribution of factors of productive resources such as land, water, financial capital, training and technology.

Significant inequalities in the enjoyment of these conditions and resources of development, whether they exist among regions, ethnic groups, social classes, between men and women or among different States, are incompatible with the right to development, in particular if they increase over time. Special attention therefore must be paid to the disaggregation of national statistics by relevant categories such as sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic sectors and geographic regions.

Since *participation* is the right through which all other rights in the Declaration on the Right to Development are exercised and protected, the forms, quality, democratic nature and effectiveness of participatory processes, mechanisms and institutions are the central and essential indicators of progress in realizing the right to development. At the international level, this applies to the equality and democratic character of intergovernmental bodies, including financial and trade institutions.

Relevant factors in assessing participatory processes include the representativeness and accountability of decision-making bodies, the decentralization of decision-making, public access to information and responsiveness of decision makers to public opinion. The effectiveness of participation must also be assessed from a subjective perspective based on the opinions and attitudes of the people affected—in other words, their confidence in leaders, feeling of empowerment and belief that they are affecting decisions.

Participation is also the primary mechanism for identifying appropriate goals and criteria for the realization of the right to development and assuring the compatibility of development activities with basic human and cultural values. This must be an on-going process at the local, regional, national and international levels, since the goals of development must be established for each level of development activity.

Publication of the criteria for measuring progress in implementing the right to development and the results of the evaluation of their usefulness is important for stimulating effective participation in the development process.

B. Recommendations for action

1. Action by States

All States engage in activities affecting the development process, both internally and in their relations with other States and peoples. The creation of national and international conditions in which the right to development can be realized fully is a responsibility of States and the international community, as well as of all peoples, groups and individuals.

All States should take immediate and concrete measures to implement the Declaration on the Right to Development. In particular, national policy and development plans should contain explicit provisions on the right to development and the realization of all human rights, especially the strengthening of democracy, together with specific criteria for evaluation. They should also identify the needs of groups which have experienced the greatest difficulties in access to basic resources and set specific goals for meeting their needs; establish mechanisms for ensuring participation in periodically assessing local needs and opportunities; and identify obstacles requiring international assistance or cooperation.

All States should take the necessary steps to strengthen their juridical systems including ensuring access by all on a non-discriminatory basis to legal remedies; particular attention should be paid to ensuring access to justice of the extremely poor and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

All States should ensure that corporations and other entities under their jurisdiction conduct themselves nationally and internationally in a way that does not violate the right to development.

All States which have not yet done so should ratify the principal instruments in the field of human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, as well as the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, including the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (Convention No. 87), the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (Convention No. 98), the Rural Workers' Organizations

Convention, 1975 (Convention No. 141) and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (Convention No. 169).

All States should renew their commitment to the implementation of the United Nations declarations which have been adopted in the field of social development, in particular the 1969 Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies on Women, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, the Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-up in the Field of Youth, and decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

All States should cooperate in creating an international economic and political environment conducive to the realization of the right to development, in particular through the democratization of decision-making in intergovernmental bodies and institutions that deal with trade, monetary policy and development assistance, and by means of greater international partnership in the fields of research, technical assistance, finance and investment.

There is also a need for greater transparency in negotiations and agreements between States and international financial and aid institutions. This must include the publication and widest possible dissemination of proposed and final agreements concerning financial aid, credit, debt, repayment and monetary policy.

2. International action

The international community must renew its efforts to combat massive and flagrant violations of rights, racism and apartheid, and all remaining forms of colonization and foreign occupation. Existing United Nations machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights must be further strengthened and additional resources provided to the Centre for Human Rights.

All United Nations activities (policy, operations and research) related to the development process should have explicit guidelines, appraisal criteria and priorities based upon the realization of human rights, including human rights impact assessments. Impact

assessments should address the possible adverse effects of the proposed activity, temporary and long-term, on the full enjoyment of human rights by any sector of the national society, the contribution of the proposed activity to the full enjoyment of human rights by the population affected and the establishment of participatory mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development should be coordinated by the Centre for Human Rights, with at least one full-time specialist devoted to this task. Effective coordination should also include a full-time liaison officer on the staff of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in New York, regular discussions within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the Administrative Committee for Coordination and the Committee for Development Planning, and the establishment of focal points for the right to development and human rights in each development-related United Nations programme and agency.

United Nations bodies and specialized agencies should be requested to review their mandates and identify those areas of their activity and responsibility which are related to the right to development and other human rights. In addition, United Nations bodies and agencies, including related financial and trade institutions, should respect the International Covenants on Human Rights and other basic conventions in the field of human rights as if they themselves were parties.

United Nations supervisory bodies in the field of human rights, such as the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, should include special comments and recommendations regarding the right to development in their review of the periodic reports of States parties.

The Secretary-General should appoint a high-level committee of independent experts from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Western Asia, South and South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific, with relevant direct experience in human rights and development and, serving in their personal capacities, to report annually to the General Assembly through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic

and Social Council on progress made in the implementation of the Declaration at the national as well as international levels, based on information requested from Governments, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as information received from all other sources. The Committee, in carrying out its activities, should ensure the effective participation of non-governmental organizations and groups active in development and human rights, including indigenous peoples, workers' organizations, women's groups and other organizations.

The high-level committee of experts should give priority to the formulation of criteria for the assessment of progress in the realization of the right to development; recommendations for a global strategy to achieve further progress in the enjoyment of this right; the examination of reports and information regarding internal and external obstacles to its enjoyment including, as appropriate, the role of transnational corporations; the identification of activities which may be incompatible with the right to development; and promoting wider knowledge and understanding of the right to development as a human right.

The design of appropriate indicators of progress should also be undertaken by the regional economic commissions, on the basis of national experience and in cooperation with the Commission on Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the International Labour Organization, other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies with relevant expertise and national universities. This process should also include the effective participation of representative organizations of disadvantaged and vulnerable peoples and groups, as well as workers' organizations and other organizations engaged directly in development programmes in the field.

All United Nations-system assistance and cooperation should be provided through an overall programme of assistance which would facilitate monitoring, coordination and implementation of the right to development. This programme should include specific requirements regarding all aspects of the right to development in an appropriate environmental and cultural framework and should be drawn up with each country.

Successful implementation of the Declaration through United Nations-system programmes and activities depends critically on the direct participation of

representatives of the people and groups directly or indirectly affected through their own representative organizations, at all levels of decision-making. The United Nations overall assistance programmes with individual countries should contain specific requirements regarding the establishment of mechanisms for assuring effective participation in their implementation and review.

The high-level committee should initiate a programme of development education with particular emphasis on reaching grass-roots organizations working in the field of development at the community and local levels. This should include regional meetings on practical problems of implementation such as mechanisms for ensuring and evaluating participation, methods for the assessment of progress in the enjoyment of the right to development and ensuring sensitivity to issues of gender and culture, to facilitate dialogue among development agencies, international financial institutions, Governments, and the peoples and communities concerned. The Centre for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the regional economic commissions and other specialized agencies should take part in this programme.

Further research and studies should be undertaken within the United Nations system on strategies for the realization of the right to development and criteria for assessing progress. This could include consultations at the regional level with independent experts and with representative organizations such as workers' organizations, including trade unions, and peasant organizations.

The report and recommendations of the Global Consultation should be taken into account in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and should be placed on the agendas for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic cooperation for development and the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in 1990, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

This report, its recommendations and the conference papers should be published and given the widest possible distribution as a contribution to the debate on this complex subject. This should be done as part of the World Information Campaign for Human Rights and in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations University and national universities. Particular efforts should be undertaken to disseminate this report to workers' organizations, including trade unions, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and to grass-roots organizations in the fields of development and human rights. Effective use should be made of electronic as well as print media.

The Declaration on the Right to Development should be given the widest possible distribution in as many local languages as possible and should be published together with an explanation and commentary accessible to the general public. The General Assembly should organize periodically a plenary debate on international cooperation for the full realization of the right to development, beginning if possible at its forty-fifth session.

The question of the implementation of the right to development as a human right should be placed on the agenda of the First and Second Committees of the Economic and Social Council and of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly on an annual basis.

3. Action by non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights and development should make efforts to exchange information and coordinate, both within the United Nations system and in the field, and in particular with regard to the elaboration, implementation and assessment of national development plans.

Non-governmental organizations should play a leading role in the dissemination of information about human rights, including the right to development, and in stimulating national-level awareness and discussion in "developed" and "developing" countries alike.

