

ECOSOC Decision 2005/234

Declaration of the Commission for Social Development on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

At its 35th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2005, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit the following declaration to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including the High-level Plenary Meeting of the Assembly:

Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

We, the representatives of Governments gathering at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development in New York on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995, in the context of the review of the outcome of the Summit and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration, to be held from 14 to 16 September 2005,

1. *Reaffirm* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action¹ adopted by the Summit and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session² constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels;

2. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,³ are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

3. *Stress* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities;

4. *Reaffirm* that an employment strategy that aims to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity should constitute a fundamental component of any development strategy. We further reaffirm that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation. The social impact and dimension of globalization deserve further attention;

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

² General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

³ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

5. *Recommit* ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons;

6. *Reaffirm* the importance of promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the access of all to primary health care as part of the effort to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration. We also recognize the continued need to address the impact of HIV/AIDS and other major infectious diseases on social and economic development;

7. *Recognize* that gender equality and the full participation of women in society are integral to building a society for all and must be at the centre of all economic and social development. We recommit ourselves to the urgent goal of achieving gender equality, to eliminating discrimination against women and to ensuring their full participation in all areas of life and at all levels;

8. *Reaffirm* that enhanced international cooperation and action at the national level are essential to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. We underline the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and strengthening of their democratic systems. We reaffirm that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that national policies have the leading role in the development process. We also reaffirm that good governance is essential to sustainable development;

9. *Recognize* that ten years after Copenhagen, despite the efforts made and progress achieved in economic and social development, the situation of many developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries as well as countries with economies in transition, requires further attention and action. We renew our commitment to support national efforts to promote a favourable environment for social and economic development, including the provision of technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, including through regional and other initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

10. *Dedicate* ourselves, a decade after Copenhagen, on the basis of our common pursuit of social development, to building solidarity, and renew our invitation to all people in all countries and in all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join in realizing our shared vision for a more just and equitable world. Therefore, we reaffirm our will and commitment to continue implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all.

