



## SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Developments in the United Nations****Contents**

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## Introduction

1. Like previous papers submitted to the Governing Body since its 259th Session, this paper gives an overview of developments in the United Nations intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies, and of initiatives of particular interest to the ILO during the year 2001 and the beginning of 2002. It highlights the ILO's own participation and involvement, and shows the heightened emphasis being given in intergovernmental dialogue to the issues and values underlying the ILO's mission and mandate.
2. In the United Nations as elsewhere, the year was dominated by growing international economic concerns, and overshadowed by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington of 11 September 2001, which coincided with the scheduled opening date of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Due to the attacks, the session opened on 12 September. Both the Assembly and the Security Council adopted resolutions to condemn the attacks on the host country. In its resolution No. 1368 (2001), the Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the United States and called on all States to work together urgently to bring the perpetrators to justice. Resolution No. 1373 (2001) established a Committee of the Council to monitor the resolution's implementation and called on all States to report on actions they had taken to that end no later than 90 days from its adoption. The resolution also provides that States should prohibit in their territories the providing of funds and financial or other services to those committing, attempting to commit, or facilitating the commission of terrorist acts.
3. In an address prior to the General Assembly debate, the Mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani, spoke of an unprovoked attack not only on the city, but also on the idea of a free, inclusive and civil society. Cancelling its Special Session on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children, scheduled for 19-21 September, the Assembly on 18 September also decided to postpone its annual plenary general debate.
4. At the postponed general debate most delegations referred to the attacks of 11 September, to the General Assembly resolution of the following day, and to the two Security Council resolutions. Many delegations reported on the status of implementation of resolution No. 1373 in their own countries. A number of delegations noted that the attacks had damaged vital economic sectors, such as the tourism and travel industries, with actual and projected job losses of up to 8 million and high unemployment. Several delegations linked terrorism and poverty, asserting that famine, poverty and under-development can be breeding grounds for dissent, wars and terrorism.
5. The events of 11 September and their consequences were also at the heart of the discussions of the Executive Heads of the United Nations system at their autumn gathering in New York (see paragraph 41 of the document).
6. Despite the heavy emphasis on security issues, underlined by the attacks in the United States, economic and social concerns remained at the forefront of many nations' concerns. This was reflected and substantiated in the themes of special sessions, at the meetings of commissions, and during general plenary and committee debates of the General Assembly. Special sessions of the General Assembly were convened on the themes of human settlements and the global HIV/AIDS crisis, and conferences were held on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, and on the special needs of the least developed countries. An International Conference on Financing for Development, a second World Assembly on Ageing, and the postponed Special Session on follow-up to the World Summit for Children are scheduled during the first half of 2002.

7. At all of these special meetings, as well as during the regular United Nations sessions, a growing emphasis is evident on the need, in the interests of world security and of political stability, to temper economic trends and policies with a heightened awareness and better articulated world agenda for social progress. This, together with the growing imperatives deriving from global demographic trends, are the reasons why questions of employment, social security and social dialogue must be at the heart of global discourse at the dawn of the new century.
8. The ILO has responded to this challenge in several ways. These include active participation with governments, the social partners and United Nations system bodies in formulating and expressing policy positions in the declarations and conclusions of United Nations meetings. There has also been encouraging progress in direct participation with the United Nations secretariat and Bretton Woods institutions in jointly addressing economic and social issues of growing global concern, such as youth employment and the financing of development. In this regard, the ILO pursued its partnership activities with other United Nations entities, especially the Secretary-General's initiatives on youth employment and the Global Compact. Building on its recent activities in this field, in particular the adoption of a pioneering code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, and taking into account the outcome of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, the ILO also formally joined the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in October 2001.<sup>1</sup> The ILO hence became the eighth co-sponsor of UNAIDS, together with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank, and will bring to this joint programme its understanding and expertise in the world of work, the workplace being a key location for HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes.
9. In 2001, a new web site was launched by the ILO's Bureau for External Relations and Partnerships. This provides comprehensive information on international developments, partnerships and events concerned with labour and social issues, and on activities of interest to the ILO, or in which the ILO is itself engaged.<sup>2</sup>

## **I. Major United Nations events**

### **1. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCIII) (Brussels, 14-20 May 2001)**

10. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCIII) was held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001 following an extensive preparatory process in New York. The ILO was very active during the Conference, and the Director-General led the ILO delegation, which included a tripartite Governing Body delegation. The Conference adopted by consensus a Political Declaration and a Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-10.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> GB.281/11; <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb281/pdf/gb-11.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> ILO web site: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/events/ldciii.htm>; Conference web site: <http://www.un.org/events/ldc3/conference/index.html>

11. In the *Declaration*,<sup>4</sup> member States committed themselves to meeting the targets of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP as official development assistance (ODA), improving aid effectiveness and providing full financing and speedy implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Member States considered that the accession of LDCs to the World Trade Organization (WTO) should be encouraged. They resolved to use the Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting (Doha, Qatar, November 2001) to stress the importance of the development dimension of trade, and the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002) to emphasize the need to mobilize development resources for LDCs.
12. The Programme of Action calls for initiatives to arrest the marginalization of LDCs as an “ethical imperative”. It recognizes employment, together with poverty eradication, gender equality, sustainable development, governance and capacity building, as a cross-cutting priority in development and urges “the respect, promotion and realization of the principles contained in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up”. The Programme of Action also refers to the importance of microcredit, microfinance, basic social services, *training and human resources development, response to socio-economic shocks, migrant workers, programmes to address HIV/AIDS*, the informal sector, small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employment as the key to development.
13. The Director-General addressed the Conference and emphasized that one of the best ways to eradicate poverty is through employment and decent work.<sup>5</sup> The ILO was a lead agency, with the Governments of France and Ethiopia, for the Conference session on human resources development and employment, at which it presented an issues paper entitled *Decent work for poverty reduction: An agenda for development in the least developed countries*,<sup>6</sup> and *ILO deliverables for LDCIII*,<sup>7</sup> a paper that set out a number of generic proposals for action at the policy and programme level to assist the LDCs in their national development process. These proposals covered human resources development and employment, social protection, social dialogue and vulnerable groups. With the active participation of the social partners, the session explored the role of human resources development and employment in stimulating growth and reducing poverty in LDCs.

## 2. Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly: Istanbul+5: Reviewing and appraising progress five years after Habitat II

14. The General Assembly of the United Nations held a Special Session in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001 to review and appraise the implementation worldwide of the *Habitat Agenda* adopted in Istanbul in 1996. The Agenda asserts that economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, can be realized through solidarity and cooperation within and between countries and through effective partnerships at all levels. Many speakers at the Special Session called for the need for employment creation

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aconf191d12.en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/speeches/somavia/2001/ldc.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/events/ldciii-issues.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/events/ldciii-deliver.htm>

programmes that reach the urban poor and for social protection strategies to prevent growing cities from falling apart.

15. The ILO statement at the Special Session focused on the centrality of employment in upgrading human settlements and in reducing urban poverty. Specific mention was made of the potential for job creation in the task of improving the urban living environment and utilizing community-based and small-scale enterprises for the delivery of public services. An ILO technical background paper was distributed entitled “Cities at work: Promoting employment and social inclusion in urban settlements in developing countries”.<sup>8</sup>

### **3. Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS**

16. The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS was held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001 and a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: “Global Crisis – Global Action” was adopted.<sup>9</sup> The Special Session noted the role of the ILO in the global campaign against HIV/AIDS. The Declaration contains a call for workplace-based action and specifically urges that national and legal policy frameworks be developed in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations, to protect the rights of workers and those affected or infected by HIV/AIDS.

17. In a statement to the Special Session, the Director-General presented the ILO’s new code of practice on HIV/AIDS in the world of work.<sup>10</sup> The code was well received during the course of the Special Session, and attracted considerable attention, especially from the media covering the event. At the invitation of the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Director-General participated in a meeting of the Global Business Council (GBC) on HIV/AIDS, a group of companies making an effort to educate their own workers on the dangers of the virus in order to promote a working environment centred around awareness.

### **4. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 31 August-7 September 2001)**

18. The ILO was represented at the Conference by a tripartite Governing Body delegation and the Director-General.<sup>11</sup> The principal concern of the ILO in relation to the Conference was to highlight the economic and social aspects of racism and xenophobia as they affect working men and women and those seeking work, with a special focus on discrimination in the world of work, migrant workers and indigenous and tribal peoples.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/events/habitat.citiesatwork.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/others/un\\_special/Declaration2706\\_en.htm](http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/others/un_special/Declaration2706_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Speech: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/speeches/somavia/2001/aids.htm>; code of practice: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/trav/aids/pdf/acodeen.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> GB.282/14/1; <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb282/pdf/gb-14-1.pdf>

19. In his remarks to the plenary session of the Conference,<sup>12</sup> the Director-General highlighted the economic and social aspects of racism and xenophobia as they affected working men and women and those seeking work. He emphasized the need to address discrimination in the world of work, particularly when directed at migrant workers and indigenous and tribal peoples. The ILO organized a number of parallel events at the Conference, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A discussion paper on international migration, racism, discrimination and xenophobia was presented jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and OHCHR and in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).<sup>13</sup>
20. The Conference adopted a Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>14</sup> although the adoption process was protracted. The Declaration and Programme of Action refer to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and call for the ratification and application of ILO Conventions.

## II. Regular United Nations events of particular interest to the ILO, 2001-02

### 1. Fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

21. The fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly was scheduled to start on Tuesday 11 September 2001, and the plenary debate should have taken place from 24 September to 5 October 2001. Due to the terrorist attacks of 11 September, the United Nations held its first meeting a day later, on 12 September, and postponed the plenary general debate to 10-16 November 2001. In the debate, many member States congratulated Kofi Annan on his re-election as United Nations Secretary-General and on his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, which he shared with the United Nations itself. A number of member States suggested improving the efficiency of the General Assembly and expanding the membership of the Security Council, and also expressed their support for the newly established International Criminal Court.
22. The General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General's report: "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration",<sup>15</sup> and delegations referred to some of the Declaration's goals, now known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These included: reaching the goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's population whose income is less than US\$1 a day, the Global HIV/AIDS and Health Fund and the affordability and availability of AIDS drugs in developing countries, and conducive policies on debt, FDI and the liberalization of international trade. Particular emphasis was placed by a number of delegations on the situation of Africa and on human rights instruments, including those relating, in particular, to trafficking in women and children.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/speeches/somavia/2001/durban.htm>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/download/wcar.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/Durban.htm>

<sup>15</sup> A/56/326; <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>

23. In accordance with the usual practice, a number of agenda items of concern to the ILO were assigned to the Economic and Financial (Second) and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (Third) Committees of the Assembly. The committees addressed issues including globalization, poverty eradication, human rights, financing for development, business and development, the advancement of women and the rights of the child, migrant workers and indigenous and tribal peoples. The Third Committee's agenda item on racism and racial discrimination was postponed for discussion until 2002 pending the agreement and final publication of the outcome documents of the World Conference against Racism.
24. Both committees provided an opportunity for the ILO to highlight its work and programmes, its involvement in international conferences in 2001, and its contribution to the preparatory process for major forthcoming international conferences. References were made to the ILO's activities in reports of the Secretary-General, resolutions submitted by the two committees and statements by national delegations.
25. Thirty-seven resolutions relating to human rights were adopted by the General Assembly and the ILO was mentioned in the following six resolutions: on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>16</sup> on the rights of the child,<sup>17</sup> on three separate resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,<sup>18</sup> Cambodia<sup>19</sup> and the Islamic Republic of Iran<sup>20</sup> and in a resolution on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.<sup>21</sup>
26. The resolution on Myanmar refers extensively to the ILO, recalling the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 88th Session (June 2000), welcoming the visit of the high-level team, strongly urging the Government of Myanmar to implement, in close cooperation with the ILO, concrete legislative, executive and administrative measures to eradicate the practice of forced labour, and in this context endorsing the recommendations of the high-level team, including the establishment of long-term representation of the ILO in the country and the creation of an ombudsman. The resolution encourages the Government of Myanmar to pursue the dialogue with the Director-General to this end. It also requests the Secretary-General to continue his discussions on the human rights situation in Myanmar and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

27. The High-Level Segment of the 2001 Substantive Session took place in Geneva from 16 to 18 July 2001 under the Presidency of Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations. The theme was "The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable

<sup>16</sup> A/RES/56/145.

<sup>17</sup> A/RES/56/138.

<sup>18</sup> A/RES/56/231.

<sup>19</sup> A/RES/56/169.

<sup>20</sup> A/RES/56/171.

<sup>21</sup> A/RES/56/167.

development". The theme was complementary to two General Assembly resolutions both entitled "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".<sup>22</sup> The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development<sup>23</sup> and the World Economic and Social Survey, 2001.<sup>24</sup> The Secretary-General's report referred to the ILO's significant policy development in the area of ICT and employment, to the *World Employment Report 2001*, the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin and to its Sectoral Activities Programme.

- 28.** The ILO was very active in the High-Level Segment. The Director-General spoke on the issue of poverty and employment at a ministerial roundtable, and the ILO, together with some 60-80 participants, including African ministers, prominent private business corporations and investors, African trade union representatives, and representatives of various other international and regional organizations and NGOs took part in an "African Forum for Investment Promotion". The purpose was to bring together potential business partners and representatives of civil society in order to promote investment in Africa. The Forum increased the awareness of potential investors about business opportunities in African economies, including joint ventures, and generated important policy recommendations.
- 29.** The ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration<sup>25</sup> adopted at the end of the High-Level Segment resolved to take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa and called on the United Nations system and the international community to support the New African Initiative. In particular, the Declaration called on the United Nations to strengthen the capacity of African governments to make the linkages between the economic and social dimensions of poverty-reduction strategies and to support African countries in promoting economic and social policies that are pro-poor and gender-sensitive and which cover employment and income-generating opportunities for women and youth. The Declaration called for the strengthening of the ILO's Jobs for Africa programme.
- 30.** During ECOSOC's Substantive Session, under the agenda item concerning social and human rights questions, a resolution on developments concerning the question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the ILO's Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), was adopted by consensus on 27 July 2001.<sup>26</sup> It takes note of the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 88th Session (2000) and the conclusions adopted at the 89th Session (2001) and the outcome of the discussion of the Committee on the Application of Standards at that session of the Conference. The resolution also takes note of the understanding concluded between the International Labour Office and the authorities of Myanmar regarding an objective assessment to be carried out in Myanmar by an ILO high-level mission, and of the fact that the ILO Governing Body

<sup>22</sup> A/RES/53/92 and A/RES/54/234.

<sup>23</sup> E/2001/83; [http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/Afr\\_rep.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/Afr_rep.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> E/2001/50; <http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/wess/wess01c1.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> E/2001/L.20; <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/docs/2001/e2001-l20.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> E/2001/L.21.

was to examine the report of that mission in November 2001.<sup>27</sup> Finally, it requests the Secretary-General to keep ECOSOC informed of further developments in this matter.

### **3. Commission for Social Development**

**31.** The theme for the 2002 session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 11-21 February 2002) was the “integration of social and economic policy”. The following specific topics were discussed in relation to this theme: (i) social aspects of macroeconomic policies; (ii) social assessment as a policy tool; and (iii) expenditures in the social sector as a productive factor. Three expert group meetings had been held previously on these topics in order to provide input to the Secretary-General’s report on the integration of social and economic policy.<sup>28</sup> The report discusses the framework for the integration of economic and social policy as well as ways of conceptualizing the distinction between the two concepts, and provides an overview of the key challenges, including persistent inequality, vulnerability due to the volatility of capital flows, and the impact of armed conflict and HIV/AIDS. The report highlights issues of central importance to the ILO, including the creation of employment, the enhancement of human capital and the expansion of social protection coverage.

**32.** Building on the paper circulated by the Director-General at the spring gathering of the Executive Heads of the United Nations system, which focused on an integrated approach to policy formulation (see below, paragraph 40), the ILO submitted a background document on the integration of economic and social policy. This paper stresses that the basic rationale for integrated policies is simply that the traditional dichotomy between economic and social policies is an inadequate basis for solving the major social and economic problems of the current era of globalization. This dichotomy has often led to sub-optimal policy choices, and this has not only brought excessively high social costs, but has also sowed the seeds of failure of the economic policies themselves through the social conflict and political instability that it has generated. The document then highlights some of the benefits of policy integration, as well as the potential obstacles to it. It also proposes ways to overcome such obstacles to integration at both national and global levels.

### **4. Commission on the Status of Women**

**33.** The forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 4-15 March 2002) is to address two thematic issues: eradicating poverty through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world; and the environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

### **5. Commission on Human Rights and treaty bodies**

**34.** The ILO continued to collaborate with the Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations treaty bodies concerned with human rights issues. The ILO attended the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and their various subsidiary bodies including the Working Groups on the Right to Development, on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and on Indigenous Populations. Several oral and written contributions were made, including

<sup>27</sup> GB.282/4; <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb282/pdf/gb-4.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2002documentation.htm>

substantial reports to the Commission and Sub-Commission. The Office cooperated with several special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Special Representative on human rights defenders. It was represented at the Eighth Annual Meeting of Special Rapporteurs/Representatives, Independent Experts and Chairpersons of UN Working Groups, at which progress was achieved in ensuring that these UN mechanisms work in closer cooperation with the ILO.

## **6. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

- 35.** The twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), were held in New York from 15 January to 2 February and 2 to 20 July 2001, respectively. At both sessions the ILO presented its reports to the Committee under Article 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and fielded questions about the reports posed by Committee members in their pre-sessional working groups.
- 36.** At the twenty-fourth session, the ILO made a special presentation to the Committee on the newly adopted Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 191), and a brief presentation to the closed session reserved for United Nations agencies, funds and programmes at the start of the session, on its concerns regarding compliance with ILO-related Conventions by several States parties reporting to the twenty-fourth session.
- 37.** At the twenty-fifth session, the ILO made presentations in relation to its report to CEDAW, and answered questions on pay discrimination, maternity protection and part-time workers.
- 38.** The twenty-sixth session of CEDAW took place in New York from 14 January to 1 February 2002. The ILO reported to the Committee at that session on the countries providing initial reports to CEDAW. The ILO provided a further report to CEDAW at its pre-session working group for the twenty-seventh session, on 4 February 2002.

## **7. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC))**

- 39.** The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) pursued its reform process throughout 2001. Following the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of the United Nations system agencies, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) agreed to the change of name of the ACC to “United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)”. CEB members also agreed on the approaches to the streamlining of the ACC subsidiary machinery proposed by the two recently-established high-level committees – the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). At the two regular sessions (Nairobi, April, and New York, October), Executive Heads addressed the role of the system in the follow-up processes to the United Nations Millennium Assembly. At their retreat in April, they focused their discussions on follow-up activities at the country level, and benefited from an exchange of views with the Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania and members of the United Nations Country Team. At the autumn session, the discussions at the retreat focused on two aspects: resource

mobilization to attain the Millennium Development Goals at the national and international levels; and the process of review and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. These discussions benefited from the inventory of work under way in the various agencies relevant to the accomplishment of the goals and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration, prepared by the HLCP, and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration (“Road Map Report”)<sup>29</sup> submitted to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The Executive Heads also discussed at both sessions ways to strengthen system-wide support for the sustainable development of Africa. Drawing on the lessons of the United Nations system’s engagement in the continent, the CEB recognized that a renewed effort in the region should build on African ownership, political commitment and leadership. They therefore welcomed at their October meeting the launch of the New African Initiative (NAI), now known as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).<sup>30</sup>

40. At the spring session, CEB members continued their reflection on the challenges of globalization and their implications for the work of the system. Building on this discussion, *and at the invitation of the Secretary-General*, the Director-General circulated a paper on an integrated approach to policy formulation, focusing on the relationships between the economic and social aspects of globalization. The paper, entitled “Integrated thinking and global governance”, stressed the importance of integrated thinking in a period of rapidly intensifying globalization.<sup>31</sup> It called for a shift towards an analytical framework that places a premium on understanding the strategic relationships between economic, social, environmental and other key variables, as well as on the search for integrated and coherent policy solutions. It also proposed a research agenda for coordinated substantive work by the multilateral system and underscored the need for a common overall framework. The Director-General’s paper was welcomed by CEB members, who noted that the analytical and methodological contributions it made were highly relevant not only to the capacity of the system to act on the linkages between the various dimensions of globalization, but also to organize the United Nations system’s efforts to advance the poverty eradication target contained in the Millennium Declaration.
41. At the autumn session, the Executive Heads held a wide-ranging discussion on the events of 11 September 2001 and their consequences, and expressed their full commitment to fight terrorism on all fronts. In this endeavour they shared a common vision, and each agency in the system was making a contribution to the overall effort against terrorism. In addition, Executive Heads reviewed the impact of these events on the already slowing global economy and the implications for the ability of the system to meet the Millennium Declaration targets, especially that of halving poverty by the year 2015. They also carried out an extensive review of the humanitarian challenges presented by the situation in and around Afghanistan. *During the retreat held in conjunction with the autumn session, the Executive Heads pursued the discussion that began at the ACC retreat of October 2000 on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, in the light of the Road-Map Report of the Secretary-General and a contribution from the HLCP. Following the proposal by the Secretary-General, they focused on two aspects: resource mobilization to attain the Millennium Development Goals at the national and international levels, taking into account the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development and the*

<sup>29</sup> A56/326; <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.dfa.gov.za/events/nepad.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> “Integrated thinking and global governance” submission by the Director-General to the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (Nairobi, April 2001); <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/messages/acc.htm>

*Zedillo report (see next section); and the process of review and monitoring of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.*

### **III: Forthcoming major United Nations events, 2002-03: Involvement in preparatory processes**

#### **1. International Conference on Financing for Development**

(Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002)

42. At its fifty-fourth session, the United Nations General Assembly agreed by consensus to convene a “high-level intergovernmental event” involving political decision-makers at the ministerial level. The high-level meeting was to consider national, international and systemic issues related to financing for development in a holistic manner in the context of globalization and interdependence. At its second meeting (New York, 12-23 February 2001), the Preparatory Committee for the high-level event decided to recommend that the General Assembly upgrade the meeting to an international conference that would include a segment at the summit level.
43. The provisional agenda of the Conference is as follows: (i) mobilizing domestic financial resources; (ii) mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows; (iii) trade; (iv) increasing international financial cooperation for development through, inter alia, official development assistance; (v) debt; and (vi) addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.
44. In December 2000, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed a panel chaired by Mr. Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico, to recommend strategies for the mobilization of resources to accelerate equitable and sustainable growth in developing countries. The panel issued a report known as the “Zedillo report”<sup>32</sup> as a contribution to the preparatory process for the Conference. The report was considered at the third substantive (May) and resumed third (October) session of the Preparatory Committee in New York.
45. The ILO has been actively involved in the preparatory process for the Conference. The ILO participated in two of the four inter-agency working groups convened by the United Nations secretariat to assist in the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report to the Preparatory Committee,<sup>33</sup> which was presented in draft form at the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee. The report reviews the major issues to be addressed by the Conference and proposes a large number of ensuing recommendations. Many of the recommendations are in line with ILO positions on development and international policy. On national policy, the report recommends that national macroeconomic policies should recognize the importance of microfinance and of small- and medium-sized enterprises in achieving sustained economic growth, employment growth and poverty reduction.

<sup>32</sup> A/55/1000; <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/a55-1000.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> A/AC.257/12; [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/aac257\\_12.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/aac257_12.pdf)

46. The Conference's draft outcome paper "Confronting the challenge of financing for development: A global response" by the Facilitator, Minister Mauricio Escanero of Mexico<sup>34</sup> was considered at the resumed third substantive Preparatory Committee meeting and at the final Preparatory Committee meeting (New York 14-22 January 2002), in which the ILO participated actively, proposing various amendments to the draft outcome document.

## 2. **Second World Assembly on Ageing** (Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2002)

47. The General Assembly decided, at its fifty-fourth session, to convene a Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 (WAA-2), on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the First World Assembly on Ageing (Vienna, 1982). The Government of Spain will host the WAA-2 (Madrid, 8-12 April 2002). The WAA-2 will review the outcome of the First World Assembly and is expected to adopt a revised Plan of Action and a long-term International Strategy for Action on Ageing 2002.<sup>35</sup>
48. The Assembly will give particular attention to: (i) action-oriented measures in a comprehensive response to the current ageing processes; (ii) linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs and perspectives of developing countries; (iii) appropriate forms of public/private partnership for building societies for all ages; and (iv) measures to promote inter-generational solidarity.
49. The General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the Preparatory Committee for the WAA-2. The first Preparatory Committee meeting (New York, 26 February-2 March 2001) considered the report prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General entitled "Towards the Second World Assembly on Ageing".<sup>36</sup> The Preparatory Committee held an inter-sessional meeting (New York, 11-14 December 2001) at which negotiations were taken up on the draft International Strategy for Action on Ageing. A further inter-sessional meeting took place from 10 to 16 January 2002. The second Preparatory Committee took place in New York from 25 February to 1 March 2002.<sup>37</sup>
50. The ILO has contributed to the report of the Secretary-General and to the Preparatory Committee meetings, provided technical input to the draft International Strategy for Action on Ageing, and will continue to ensure that employment and social protection issues are firmly placed on the WAA-2 agenda.

## 3. **Follow-up to the World Summit for Children: General Assembly Special Session on Children** (New York, 8-10 May 2002)

51. The United Nations Special Session on Children, originally scheduled for 19-21 September 2001, was postponed to 8-10 May 2002, due to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/0102Facilit-text.htm>

<sup>35</sup> See GB.282/ESP/2; <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb282/pdf/esp-2.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> A/56/152; <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56152.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> See also GB.283/ESP/5.

52. The main objectives of the session are to review achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration and Plan of Action that emerged from the World Summit for Children (1990) and to renew commitments and consider future action for children in the light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).<sup>38</sup>
53. At the first Preparatory Committee meeting, delegations considered the report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century<sup>39</sup> and reached agreement on three outcomes to be pursued through future action for children to ensure a good start in life, a good quality basic education and adolescent development and participation. Following the first session, a draft provisional outcome document, "A world fit for children" was produced. This outcome paper was considered at the second and third preparatory meetings,<sup>40</sup> to which the ILO provided comments.<sup>41</sup>
54. The ILO has been actively involved in preparations for the Special Session so as to ensure that appropriate account is taken of the ILO's position on the elimination of child labour in the preparatory documents and final outcome.<sup>42</sup>
55. The ILO submitted a report reviewing achievements during the 1990s related to the World Summit for Children's Plan of Action in fields relevant to the ILO, mainly child labour, as an official contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Special Session.<sup>43</sup> The report was distributed at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

**4. World Summit on Sustainable Development:  
Review of the United Nations Conference  
on Environment and Development and its  
Agenda 21, 2002 (Rio+10) (Johannesburg,  
South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002)**

56. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will bring together Heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders of workers and trade unions, business and industry, women, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups to focus the world's attention and to direct action toward improving people's lives while also achieving more sustainable patterns of production and consumption of natural resources.
57. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. Ten years later, the

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm>

<sup>39</sup> A/AC.256/3-E/ICEF/2000/13: <http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/documentation/documents/a.ac.256-3.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> A/AC.256/CRP.6/Rev. 3 (third revised draft): <http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/documentation/index.html>

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/download/iloposition21\\_8.doc](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/download/iloposition21_8.doc)

<sup>42</sup> ILO: Note on the fourth revised draft outcome document: A world fit for children. [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/download/iloposition21\\_8.doc](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/download/iloposition21_8.doc)

<sup>43</sup> *We the children*: <http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/about/sg-report.htm>

Johannesburg Summit presents an opportunity to identify concrete steps and quantifiable targets to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21.

- 58.** Many member States have convened national preparatory committees to review challenges in achieving sustainable development and to make an assessment of progress. In each region, intergovernmental, subregional and regional preparatory meetings were held during 2001 to assess the key challenges, opportunities and constraints relating to sustainable development over the past ten years and to identify future priorities, new initiatives, commitments and partnerships.
- 59.** The tenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (known as CSD10) is acting as the global Preparatory Committee for the Johannesburg Summit. Four intergovernmental Preparatory Committee meetings are being held during 2001-02 to prepare the agenda for the Summit. The first Preparatory Committee was held in New York from 31 April to 2 May 2001. The second Preparatory Committee meeting was held in New York from 28 January to 8 February 2002 and the third will be held from 25 March to 5 April 2002, also in New York. The final Preparatory Committee meeting, at the ministerial level, will be held in Indonesia from 27 May to 7 June 2002.
- 60.** Achieving sustainable development through the integration of the three main pillars of economic, social and environmental issues will mean giving greater attention to decent work, reducing extreme poverty and boosting investment that generates new employment and income opportunities. These themes were addressed at the ILO's Global Employment Forum in November 2001 and are directly related to the WSSD/Rio+10 process. Following the 2001 International Labour Conference, the ILO is committed to developing its decent work approach within a comprehensive sustainable development framework and in partnership with other international agencies. The ILO has also undertaken work on sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and tourism through its regular sectoral meetings. The Governing Body will be kept informed of the preparations for the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

## **IV. Special partnerships**

### **1. High-Level Youth Employment Network**

- 61.** In his Millennium report, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, announced his intention of convening with the President of the World Bank and the Director-General of the ILO, a High-Level Youth Employment Network that would engage "the most creative leaders in private industry, civil society and economic policy" to explore imaginative approaches to combating youth unemployment.
- 62.** In 2001, the Secretary-General invited 12 eminent persons<sup>44</sup> to form a High-Level Panel to prepare policy recommendations on ways to promote decent work opportunities for young

<sup>44</sup> Saifuddin Abdullah, César Alierta, Ruth C.L. Cardoso, Hernando de Soto, Geeta Rao Gupta, Bill Jordan, Allan Larsson, Rick Little, Maria Livanos Cattai, Magatte Wade, Ralph Willis and Rosanna Wong. For biographies, see: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/partners/youth/panel.htm>

people. These proposals were discussed at the High-Level Panel Meeting held on 16 and 17 July 2001 at ILO headquarters in Geneva.<sup>45</sup>

- 63.** At the meeting of the High-Level Panel, the United Nations Secretary-General asked the ILO to act as lead agency for the High-Level Youth Employment Network, including organizing and seeking the necessary funding for a permanent secretariat for the Network. The High-Level Panel will act in an advisory capacity, providing its views and expertise on the proposed recommendations, as well as mobilizing public opinion and action for youth employment.

## **2. Global Compact**

- 64.** The Global Compact continues to gain momentum. Since its operational launch in July 2000, its reach has grown significantly. Successful introductory events in over 20 countries, including Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation, have all been important steps towards making the Compact and its principles an integral part of business activities everywhere.
- 65.** The United Nations core agencies most directly involved in the Global Compact are the ILO,<sup>46</sup> the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, which together are developing resources and capabilities in four core areas of activity: (i) outreach, to make the Compact truly global; (ii) dialogue, to craft cooperative solutions to the challenges of globalization; (iii) learning, to stimulate a culture of change and to identify and disseminate good business practices; and (iv) partnership projects to advance UN goals, especially developmental ones.
- 66.** A number of events in connection with the Global Compact took place in 2001 in which the ILO was an active participant. More than two dozen corporate CEOs and representatives of roughly 70 other Philippine companies gathered in Manila on 26 September to discuss the Global Compact. The High-Level Forum, which also included participants from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, was organized by the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the ILO. Three case studies on best practices relating to Global Compact principles were presented by the CEOs of Unilever Philippines, Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Corporation and Asian Transmission Corporation.
- 67.** Executives from 17 companies convened in Bangkok from 27 to 28 November 2001 for an ILO regional employers' meeting on the Global Compact. Conference participants reported the results of a regional survey on the implementation of the Compact and reviewed plans for 2002, including the establishment of management committees and advocacy groups at the national level. Participants also discussed targets for engaging individual companies to become active in the Compact at the national level.

Geneva, 8 February 2002.

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/partners/youth/recommendations.htm>

<sup>46</sup> "The Global Compact and the ILO," on the ILO web site at the following address: [http://oracle02.ilo.org/dyn/empent/empent.portal?p\\_lang=EN&p\\_prog=M&p\\_subprog=GC](http://oracle02.ilo.org/dyn/empent/empent.portal?p_lang=EN&p_prog=M&p_subprog=GC)