

# WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Attacking  
Poverty  
  
Building  
Solidarity  
  
Creating  
Jobs

\* More than a billion people live in poverty  
\* High unemployment threatens to become a permanent feature of modern economies  
\* Social inequalities and polarization are deepening  
From 6 to 12 March 1995, national leaders and delegations will meet for the World Summit on Social Development, in Copenhagen, Denmark, to grapple with the three key challenges facing the world today - poverty eradication, jobs creation and social integration. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, Heads of State and Government will meet to give the highest priority to the betterment of the human condition. The Summit presents an opportunity to build on the accomplishments of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, where more than 150 nations agreed that "human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development." As the UN Secretary-General Dr. Boutros Ghali has pointed out, "Increased international cooperation for economic and social development would significantly contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security. Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world for everyone." Coming in the 50th anniversary year of the UN, the 1995 Social Summit occupies a central position in a constellation of UN organized gatherings on global development issues, which includes the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, and the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements

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The World Summit for Social Development provides a great opportunity for the world's children

No one has a greater interest in the decisions of the Social Summit than children and youth. The Summit offers world leaders an historic opportunity to create a new vision for social progress and poverty eradication, and to define national and international priorities and action for achieving this vision.

In the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) experience, goals carefully considered and seriously adopted constitute the strongest basis for action. Universal ratification and effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as accelerated efforts to achieve the mid-decade and year 2000 goals will continue to provide the focus for UNICEF's work.

The opportunity created by the Summit is one in which every country must play its part.



The World Bank is strongly committed to all three themes of the World Summit on Social Development, and its principal contribution will be a paper on "Advancing Social Development".

This paper will: (i) formulate an operationally useful definition of social development; (ii) analyze different indicators that can be used to monitor progress in social development; and (iii) identify operational strategies to help countries enhance social development. The overall aim of the Bank is to offer operationally useful guidance to policy makers, from developing countries, so that the broad commitments made at the Summit can actually be translated into concrete investment programs.



Photo by: Shehzad Nourani

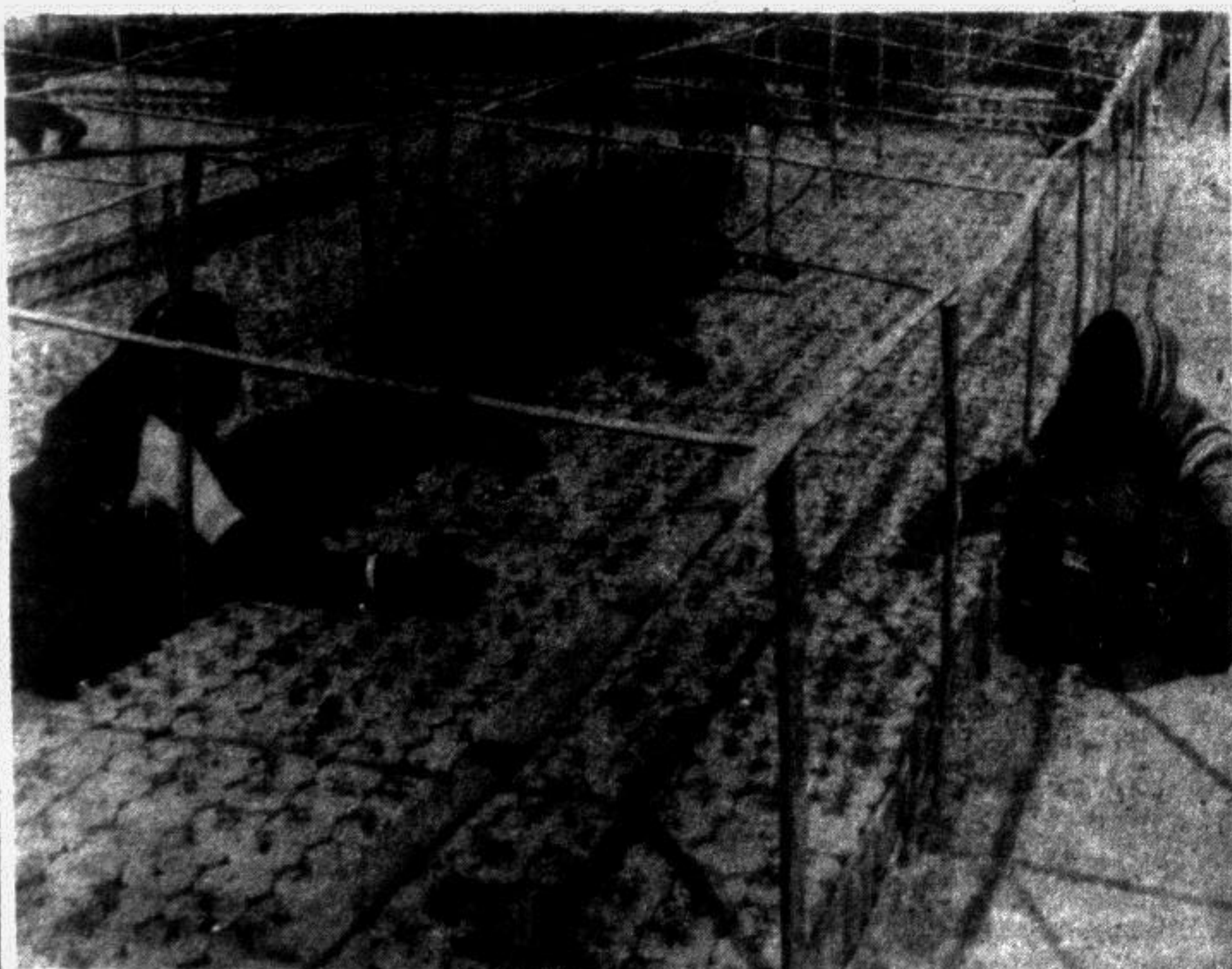


Since Bangladesh became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 12 November 1973, FAO has been assisting Government programmes for the improvement of life in the country. It has done this through efforts to promote food security including increased production of food and other agricultural produce to achieve an appropriate and sustainable balance between self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Activities aimed at employment and income generation in rural areas, eradication of poverty, and conservation of natural resources have also been advocated and supported. These concerns will be addressed during the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development emphasising Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

In October 1994 more than 23 million refugees and displaced persons were of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The refugee problem is today broader in scope and more complex than ever before. In search of durable solutions, UNHCR facilitates the social integration of refugees through voluntary repatriation to the



country of origin, local integration in the country of first asylum and, for refugees for whom no other option is available, resettlement in third countries. In refugee producing countries, where displacement and development are inter-related, UNHCR acts as a catalyst to encourage development programmes and assistance activities through quick impact projects to help prevent further displacements.



SOMALIA/REFUGEES