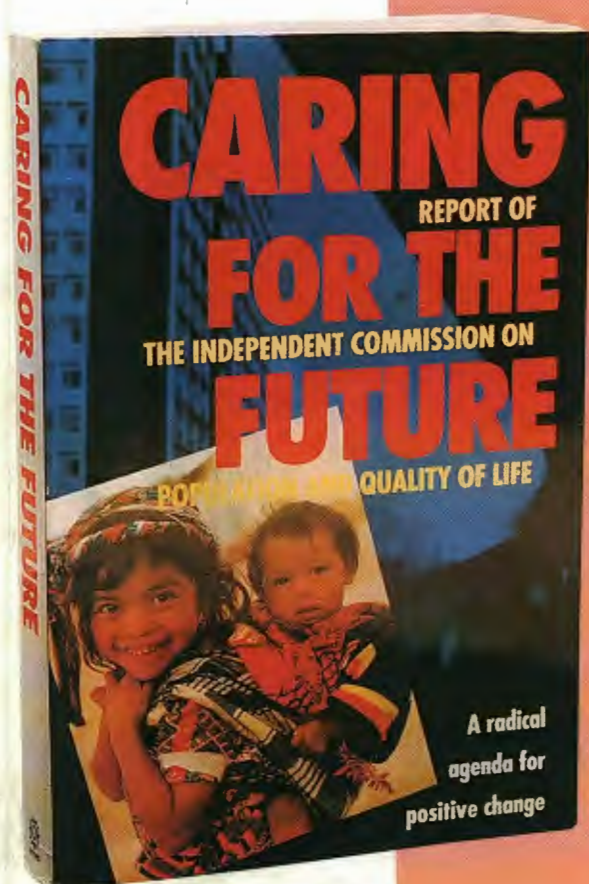


CARING FOR THE FUTURE

From vision to policies



*The account of three seminars
held in Africa
and the Caribbean*



MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

<i>Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo</i> <i>President</i>	<i>Former Prime Minister, Portugal.</i>
<i>Monique Bégin</i>	<i>Former Minister of Health and Welfare, Canada.</i>
<i>Ruth Corrêa Leite Cardoso</i>	<i>Director of social programmes, Brazil.</i>
<i>Karina Constantino-David</i>	<i>President, Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Philippines.</i>
<i>Eleanor Holmes Norton</i>	<i>Member of Congress, United States.</i>
<i>Bernard Kouchner</i>	<i>Minister of Health, France.</i>
<i>Maria Anna Knothe (1994-96)</i>	<i>President, Centre for Advancement of Women, Poland.</i>
<i>Eva Letowska (1993-94)</i>	<i>Former National Ombudsman, Poland.</i>
<i>Vina Mazumdar</i>	<i>Founder-Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, India.</i>
<i>Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi</i>	<i>Member of Parliament, Palestine.</i>
<i>Taro Nakayama</i>	<i>Former Minister of Health, Member, Lower House of Diet, Japan.</i>
<i>Olusegun Obasanjo</i>	<i>Former Head of State, Nigeria.</i>
<i>Jan Pronk</i>	<i>Minister for Development Cooperation, Netherlands.</i>
<i>Pu Shan</i>	<i>Member, Standing Committee, Chinese People's Consultative Conference; President, Graduate School, Academy of Social Sciences, China.</i>
<i>Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo</i>	<i>Former Minister of Foreign affairs; Member of Parliament, Colombia.</i>
<i>Juan Somavia</i>	<i>Ambassador, Chair of United Nations World Summit for Social Development, Chile.</i>
<i>Aminata Traoré</i>	<i>Minister for Culture and Development, Mali.</i>
<i>Beate Weber</i>	<i>Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany.</i>
<i>Anders Wijkman</i>	<i>Assistant Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, Sweden.</i>
<i>Alexander N. Yakovlev</i>	<i>Member, Academy of Sciences; Chair, Presidential Committee on Rehabilitation of Political Prisoners, Russia.</i>

The Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life is an international commission set up in 1992 by seven governments (Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom), by three international agencies (the United Nations Population Fund, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the World Bank), and by five major private foundations (Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett, and Mellon).

CARING FOR THE FUTURE

From vision to policies

Rapporteur: Leonard Manneke-Appel

*Independent Commission on
Population and Quality of Life*



Contents

Presentation

- | | | |
|------|---|-------|
| I. | The South and East African Seminar
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | p. 5 |
| II. | The West African Seminar
Dakar, Senegal | p. 37 |
| III. | The Caribbean Seminar
Kingston, Jamaica | p. 79 |

PRESENTATION

After the publication of its report *Caring for the Future - A radical agenda for positive change*, the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life decided to contribute directly, through regional seminars in different parts of the world, to the practical implementation of the recommendations contained in its report.

The methodology followed in the devolution of these recommendations to those who can implement them is mainly based on assessing the viability of the planned activities and identifying realistic political measures to apply them, taking into account regional context and competences. For the most part the Commission consults political leaders, scientists active in the various research fields underpinning the recommendations made in the report and NGOs working to improve social structures.

Three regional symposia were held in countries of the Lomé Convention, thanks to a generous contribution from the Directorate-General for Development (DG.VIII) of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels. The first seminar took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (19-21 September, 1997). The second was held in Dakar, Senegal (4-6 December, 1997). The third and last of this series took place in Kingston, Jamaica (11-13 June, 1998). The present document contains the reports of these three symposia.

Composed of 18 members, women and men equally represented, coming in equal number from the Northern and the Southern hemispheres, the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life published its Report in June 1996. In the drafting of its Report, the Commission decided to give a preponderant role to testimonials taken in seven Public Hearings conducted within the four main regions (East and West Africa, North and Latin America, South and South-East Asia, Eastern Europe) in 1993 and 1994. Thus the 'people's voice' became the driving force in the Commission's effort and bore out the theoretical perspectives on which the members of the Commission had reached unanimous agreement. *Caring for the Future* was translated and published in French, Portuguese, German and Turkish in 1998. Others language editions are in preparation, among them Indonesian, Korean, Russian, Sinhalese, and Spanish.

The Commission follows on from other independent Commissions of the last two decades which have, like it, looked at global problems which can only be solved by putting in place actions grounded in a perspective that is itself global: the Commission on International Development Issues (North-South Cooperation), chaired by Chancellor Brandt; the Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Prime Minister Brundtland; the Commission on Global Governance, chaired by Prime Minister Carlsson.

4 Africa and Caribbean

The task assigned to the Commission by the 15 sponsors (several governments, multilateral organisations and foundations) was to elaborate a fresh vision of world population issues, with emphasis on both human rights and the social and economic conditions affecting changes in population.

From the outset, the Commission showed that the issue was for society to come to grips with all the elements contributing to dynamic population balance in harmony with the environment and allowing life its fullness for the future generations. The notion of quality of life was seen to be the goal once that the threshold of quantity (beyond the level of mere survival) was crossed. Population matters not only form a whole that is

situated at the crossroads of popular will, scientific knowledge and public policy but most of all they are the continuous expression of the dynamism of society in terms of human phenomena, life and death, stability and mobility, and in the context of the sheer survival of humans and the Earth itself.

The years 2000-2030 are going to be crucial for the achievement of a decent quality of life for all, respectful of the fundamental dignity of every human being. To that end, the primary and universal requirement which must be at the heart of the public policies of all governments and which is a prerequisite for the free exercise by all of their economic, social and political rights and duties, is the eradication of poverty.



Report on

THE SOUTH AND EAST
AFRICAN SEMINAR

**CARING FOR THE FUTURE:
FROM VISION TO POLICIES**

held by

**THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

and

THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 19 to 21 September, 1997

with the financial contribution of

**the Directorate-General for Development (DG. VIII)
of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium**



Ambassador Gertrude Mongella gives the keynote speech at the Eastern and Southern Africa Seminar, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 19 September 1997.

From right to left: Prof.Em. Monique Bégin, former Minister of Health and Welfare, Canada, and member of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life; Ambassador Gertrude Mongella; Vice-Chancellor M.L. Luhanga, University of Dar es Salaam.

Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	8
Method and model of the seminar	9
The choice of Dar es Salaam	9
Eastern and Southern Africa invitees	9
Tanzanian invitees	9
Dar es Salaam participants	9
Commission members present	9
Themes of the workshops	9
A special roundtable meeting	9
The opening ceremony of the seminar	10
Contents of the working groups	11
Improving security	11
Protecting the ecosystems	12
Combating exclusion	13
Making population a government priority	14
Creating jobs in the context of the emergence of informal economy	14
Improving education for everyone	15
Advocating health care, including reproductive health care	16
Fostering the new social force of women	16
Harmonizing economic growth and quality of life through a new social contract	17
Finding new funding mechanisms	17
The round table meeting	19
Ethiopia	19
Malawi	19
Sudan	20
Uganda	21
Zambia	22
Zimbabwe	23
The most urgent recommendations	24
Conclusion	27
Annexes	28

'A UN Agenda for Development must be a plan of action to end poverty throughout the world. It must say: 'We, the peoples of the world, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourges of war, poverty, and underdevelopment, do hereby adopt this plan of action.'

Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, UN General Assembly, New York, 7 June 1994

INTRODUCTION

After the publication of its Report entitled «Caring for the Future»¹ and in accordance with one of the terms of its mandate: 'reaching out to the large and broad constituency worldwide', the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, decided to set up - in partnership with Universities - a series of symposia allowing representatives of a specific region to translate the 'fresh vision' expressed in the Report and its global recommendations into locally and regionally relevant political measures and activities.

The Commission's task (1992-1996) was to elaborate a global vision of population issues, with emphasis on both human rights and the social and economic conditions affecting changes in population. One of its conclusions is that Quality of Life is the global framework within which the analysis and action to stabilize the world's population - fully respecting both the rights of men and women, and the rights of the poor and the most underprivileged - is made possible. The components of the various quality of life rights recognized through the UN legal instruments gives to the concept of quality of life a specific content. The overriding challenge of quality of life for all has essentially global imperatives and implies an impact on regional and local policies. To foster a common reflection leading to regional and local action is the aim of the seminars the Commission has now set up.

As places of dialogue with different social actors, these seminars bring together representatives of government, administration and parliament, of non-governmental organisations, and of intellectual and cultural circles, all of which are agents of transformation in their field of competence and influence. Besides the strengthening of one's personal commitment and the rediscovery of the finality of one's political or social action, the very event of the seminar brings to the participants the conviction that common action is possible on many fronts.

Everywhere people are uncertain of the future. The seminar can thus become the starting point for new initiatives at the grassroots level, within the scientific and business communities and in our own political institutions.

The organisation of symposia in countries of the Lomé Convention has been made possible by a generous contribution from the Directorate-General for Development (DG.VIII) of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels. The first seminar took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (19-21 September, 1997). The second is to be held in Dakar, Senegal (4-6 December, 1997), and a third one in Kingston, Jamaica (11-13 June, 1998).

The seminar in Tanzania was held at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and organized by the Institute of Demography of UDSM, with Prof. Chrysanth L. Kamuzora as chairman of the Organizing Committee. It brought together participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The high-level participation included many members of Parliament, directors of administration, chairmen of cooperative unions and university professors, all of whom are decision makers and experts in the many interrelated fields of population, development, health and economics that are being discussed in the Report 'Caring for the Future'. The number of participants was limited to 140.

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella opened the seminar under the co-chairing of Prof. Emerita Monique Bégin, Member of the Commission, and Vice-Chancellor M. L. Luhanga (UDSM).

Throughout the working groups and the plenaries, the participants not only endorsed the Report, but retained its recommendations as a starting point for reflection and the elaboration of options concerning the transformation of their own local and regional realities.

METHOD AND MODEL OF THE SEMINAR

The choice of Dar es Salaam

In December 1993 the Commission held a Public Hearing in Harare (Zimbabwe) gathering hundreds of people involved in local population and development initiatives. This time it seemed preferable to include more directly the Eastern African region. Dar es Salaam was chosen as the place of meeting for the seminar, first of all because of its location within Eastern and Southern Africa, allowing participants from all directions to travel relatively easily. Another reason for the choice of Dar es Salaam was the pleasure of the Independent Commission to cooperate with the University of Dar es Salaam. The popularity of Mwalimu Nyerere in circles close to the population and development debate added to the choice. Under the leadership of Nyerere, Tanzania introduced policies that witnessed a willingness for social change in the direction of greater equality - all preoccupations that are very close to the intentions of the Commission members.

Eastern and Southern Africa invitees

After a first list of potential regional invitees mainly prepared in consultation with the secretariat of the African Leadership Forum (of which the Founder, General Olusegun Obasanjo is a member of the Commission), based in Accra, Ghana, meetings at the University of Dar es Salaam with political analysts brought forth a short list of 15 invitees. A copy of the Report was added to the invitation letter, asking the invitees to study the Report before attending the seminar. Thirteen of them answered positively. Unfortunately one MP from Kenya could not make it in the end. (see the list of participants in annex).

Tanzanian invitees

For its part, the Organizing Committee at the University of Dar es Salaam had, in the meantime, made up a list of Tanzanian institutions and personalities they wished to be represented in this event. Letters went out, with a summary of the Report; although the answers came in slowly, in the end the degree of representation and participation seemed adequate with some 25 representatives. The two groups coming from outside Dar es Salaam - limited in number for financial reasons - formed the regional party of the seminar and represented nearly 40 participants.

Dar es Salaam participants

The others participants came from town - government, administration, academia, press, NGOs, civic society; they formed the local group of participants with some 100 persons. The regional participants opened up discussions on wider national or regional dimensions, the local group centered the debate on the reality of local policies.

Members of the Commission

General Obasanjo, from Nigeria, in jail for political reasons, was not able to attend. Aminata Traoré, from Mali, intended to participate but due to a last minute bereavement, she had to cancel her participation. Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, President of the Commission, also had to cancel her attendance at the last moment. The Hon. Monique Bégin, from Ottawa, Canada, was thus the only Member of the Commission to be present at this first seminar which she co-chaired. The Adviser to the President, Dragoljub Najman, was also present. Both of the latter were witnesses of the whole process that led to the publication of the Report. They commented on the work done in the working groups in which they took an active part in clarifying some points of the recommendations.

Léonard Manneke-Appel, consultant to the Commission, worked together with the Organizing Committee for the overall organisation of the seminar, both in the preparatory work and during the course of the seminar, as well as in its follow up.

Working groups

All participants were asked to study the Report beforehand. Moreover, 10 professors of the University of Dar es Salaam (see list in annex) were invited to take part in several preparatory meetings on the Report, to choose themselves a chapter according to their own speciality, to introduce its themes, and to work as facilitators in the working groups. For this purpose 10 themes taken from the Report were listed, along with a few key sentences (see below, page 9 to 26):

1. Improving security
2. Protecting the ecosystem
3. Combating exclusion
4. Making population a government priority
5. Creating jobs in the context of the emergence of the informal economy
6. Improving education for everyone
7. Advocating health care, including reproductive health care
8. Fostering the new social force of women
9. Harmonizing economic growth and quality of life through a new social contract
10. Finding new funding mechanisms.

After the opening ceremony on the first day, participants met in small working groups of 10 to 15 participants around the theme which had been assigned to them. At the end of the day some two hours daily were devoted to plenaries, co-chaired by the Hon. Monique Bégin and the chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof Chrysanth Kamuzora.

A special round-table meeting

On the last day, a round-table meeting was held with the regional participants in which each presented issues and improvements in their own country, in the perspective of the implementation of the Recommendations made in *Caring for the Future*.

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania, had agreed to open the seminar. Because of a family bereavement he had to cancel all his commitments during the period in which the seminar was held. However, President Nyerere was briefed by the Advisor of the President of the Independent Commission, Dragoljub Najman, in his home in Butiama, in the North-West of Tanzania, on the eve of the seminar.

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Secretary General for the Beijing Conference on Women and Development (1995), was graceful enough to replace Mwalimu at the last minute and to honour the seminar with her presence.

After a word of welcome by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Professor Mathew Luhanga, and before an introduction to the Report by the Hon. Monique Bégin, Ambassador Mongella thanked the European Union for having appreciated the work of the Commission and for financing the seminar.

In the presence of the media, Ambassador Mongella welcomed the participants to Tanzania and to the 'Haven of Peace', Dar es Salaam. She recalled the recent passing away of Mother Teresa, of Lady Di and of 'Grandmother' (Mwalimu Nyerere's mother). Mother Teresa's life time work, she said, was caring for what she called 'the poorest of the poor'. It is gratifying, she continued, that the Commission's Report and recommendations have as a focus an all-inclusive framework that attempts to make sure that no one in society is left behind on the path to improved quality of life. 'The name of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life', she continued, 'marks a departure from generalities of the traditional discourse of the population debate, signs of which could be seen already in 1994 in Cairo, at the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission's Report *Caring for the Future* focuses on enhancement of the quality of life, and a pertinent question is what factors bring this about. Ten recommendations that set the stage for this seminar's deliberations constitute a holistic attempt to enhance improvement in the quality of life. They span a broad spectrum : from direct factors like health and reproductive care, education, population weight on existing communities and the scarcity of resources, protection of eco-systems and women's emancipation, to social contract

obligations of rights to employment and security and combating exclusion. Neither the daunting financial implications of requisite programmes have been overlooked, nor the possible sources of funding. They are a revolutionary paradigm to the development of mankind, hence the Commission's mottoes 'Quality of Life' and 'Caring for the Future'.

Ambassador Mongella evoked the constantly increasing issue of women in the region. 'They are -and have been- the basis of production and reproduction of society. Every year the women of Tanzania generate a new Zanzibar. Yet, while they are increasingly becoming the main sources of livelihood of their household, they bear along that shouldering not just as an asymmetrical burden compared to men but as an absolute heavy workload. The consequences on their health are not limited to women themselves, but, as already shown in survey research, extend to future generations with low-weighted births and stunted children. (...) The seminar like the one you are going to hold is thus timely and crucially important'.

In her speech, the Hon. Monique Bégin (Canada), former Minister of Internal Revenue, and later of Social Affairs, Health and Welfare, and Commission member, replacing Mrs Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, former Prime Minister of Portugal, explained the process of the work of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life which led to the publication of the Report and its several translations now underway. Experts work and studies were an important part but the essential input came from the seven Public Hearings held in Zimbabwe, Mali, India, Philippines, Brazil, United States, and Russia. During these Public Hearings, people locally involved in population and development initiatives at the grassroot level were invited to express their problems and perspectives. Mrs Bégin underlined the fact that the North and the South hemispheres, and both women and men were equally represented in the Commission. She expressed her gratitude for the way the seminar was organized while regretting the fact that men were in the majority among those attending.

Introducing the work of the seminar, Monique Bégin expressed the wish that the Report not remain on a shelf but be used rather to mobilize people and be an incentive to all to take a new step. She invited everyone present to translate the Report's recommendations into local action. She herself took an active part in the working groups on health care and women's issues.



CONTENTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The themes of the seminar appeared to all participants very close to their daily work and close to the life of their people. In the newspapers they were reading on the way to the University grounds where the seminar was being held, the participants found the very themes they were going to work upon with their colleagues. For instance, 'The Guardian' had a long article about the globalization of trade. With liberalization, virtually all countries are now tied to the world investment environment. 'If this arrangement is not well tailored', writes the correspondent, 'the disadvantaged and poor countries like Tanzania will continue to wallow in poverty'. 'Living poor', thus begins the article, 'is like to sail in a stormy sea in a battered canoe in an endless journey, requiring all your strength simply to keep afloat. Like individuals, countries subjected to endless economic crisis such as Tanzania are likely to be sharing the same experiences.'

'The Sunday Observer's headline was: 'Thousands forced into child labor in Kilosa'. The district has two sugar factories as well as large sisal plantations. Tanzania was once the world's number one producer of sisal. Due to a glut of the crop in the world market, Tanzania almost abandoned sisal production in favour of other cash crops such as coffee, tea, and cotton. The chairperson of the Kilosa District Council, said children under 15 years of age were not going to school because their parents could not afford to pay school fees. Statistics indicate that nearly 45 per cent of the district population live in abject poverty, forcing children to work in hazardous conditions. At the Tanzania Civil Engineering Contractors Association, Mr Kishimbo affirmed that the local construction industry is hindered by the free market economy. 'The liberalization of the economy has triggered off mechanisms of marginalization rather than positive contributions to the growth of the local construction industry'. 'The 'Daily News' reported that President Mkapa had declared a food emergency the week before, and had to beg donors for assistance. Our farmers, Mkumbwa Ally said, sold tons upon tons of food to businessmen, who supplied it to towns or even exported it. Even after the announcement of the food emergency, it seems, unscrupulous businessmen are reported to be smuggling cereals to a neighbouring country, where the price is said to be about ten times higher.

An interview with the national coordinator of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Mrs Alice Bhukoli, spoke about the issue of conservation : 'I think there will be no going back, no country will now ignore environmental conservation since it has now become clear that it is an issue that concerns the very existence of human survival.'

Those are also exactly the kinds of issues the Report addresses.

The 10 working groups started with an introduction given by the facilitator, a Professor of UDSM, who explained and commented the Report's recommendations in the theme to be worked out. This introduction was often preceded by a long period of silent reading of the Report. Some groups worked from one page to the next or from one recommendation to the next, discussing it and then passing on. Sometimes there was not enough time to reach the end of the chapter. The group chose a chairperson in order to lead the dialogues and a rapporteur to report to the plenary at the end of the day.

1. Improving security

Making life more liveable through improved individual and collective health and security

Report, p. 63-95 + 288-292

The security of the human being is what counts perhaps most in the quality of life. People have a right to it - not simply the right to be free from avoidable harm, but to be free of the fear of harm. Personal security is linked intimately with economic security. A threat to one's livelihood is also a threat to everything that income and property provide : nutrition, health, housing, and the like. And among the poorest of people, threats to livelihood are threats to life itself.

For this group there is no security in the region. Therefore the discussion was directed at 'instituting' security rather than 'improving security'. Security has manifold meanings and implies the opposition against foreign threat, the defense of sovereignty and thus of safe borders and the realization that basic needs are rights. They include food and nutrition, housing and shelter, water and sanitation, child care facilities, education, access to social services, income, social security, structures to protect women and men's rights, knowledge and information, etc. Caring for the future, caring for humankind has everything to do with security. Those who are affected by insecurity are the poorest among people and social groups at individual, family, community and national levels. On all those levels, women, children, elderly, and disabled suffer the most. A participant observed in this context that the Commission did not accentuate the importance of rehabilitation of disabled persons.

Insecurity proceeds often from the threat of developed countries. They instigate war, so as to sell their arms. But some group members wondered why the developing countries do not realize the consequences of their action, and stop these instigations by solving problems at a negotiation table, i.e. through political means and discussion.

Among the reasons evoked is the current social, economic and political situation:

- Developing countries operate within the framework of patriarchal structures which have pillars of discrimination: customary laws and practices, legal institutions and religious institutions.
- Resources have not been distributed equitably and do not facilitate quality of life for the most needy people.
- The rapidly widening gap between the poor and the rich makes it doubtful that the majority of the population will ever attain quality of life.
- The evergrowing national debt consumes a high proportion of national revenue collected by developing countries.
- Also, group members noted that the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) have invariably resulted in poverty: families are not able to subsist when SAPs are introduced despite the economic growth indicated by agencies which favour the programmes.

Some group members affirmed that governments spend twice as much on the military area than on social services, such as health and education. There is urgency to reduce military spending and the funds saved should be allocated to social services, especially the two mentioned.

Many felt that the issues of gender equity are ignored in services in Africa. Improvement of the status and standards of living of women should be emphasized by providing them appropriate education and health care.

Among the strategies recommended in instituting security in the region are: information and empowerment of people of the region to take charge, and pressure from the civil society for ratification of international charters which have direct bearing on security.

What should be done to attain security and quality of life? The group's answer is the following set of recommendations:

- By the year 2000, NGOs should empower 30 per cent of women and men at local level to know their rights, to bring about a change of attitude towards equality and equity, towards social taboos, behaviours and beliefs and to stimulate responsible parenthood.
 - By the year 2000, national economic resources must be re-allocated to social sectors targeting to improve the quality of life, decreasing the military budget and negotiating for debt cancellation, and re-directing funds to the social sector.
- In general, there is a need to re-allocate the current national budgets to benefit lower levels of the population strata, the vulnerable groups that find their place in the underbudgeted sections.
- By the year 2000, all countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region should ratify the international conventions (State), popularize them (NGOs), enact laws for their implementation (Ministry of Justice and Parliament).

Participants of this seminar should take up the challenge to disseminate those recommendations.

2. Protecting the ecosystems

Facing the limits of the carrying capacity of the planet

Report, p. 96-113 + 292-296

Politics still seems to leave environmental questions outside the mainstream of its concerns, something belonging to the 'realm of the ecologists'. But what is at stake, in fact, are key issues of governance. Nature has now to become a dominant factor in politics, and it is only political action that will provide the stewardship required. We mean a stewardship responding to Nature: its resources, its diversity, its spiritual significance, and its aesthetic value. All these must be renovated and their equilibrium restored to Nature and protected.

It is essential to recognize that human beings share a common destiny with nature, that our lives depend upon and are even interacted with nature's basic ingredients of air, water, land and trees. These are what we are supposed to protect, and what we have to keep in equilibrium. The search for equilibrium and sustenance is meant to guarantee that people remain at the center of all societal processes which include preservation, renewal and enrichment of nature. Thus policy and practice of conservation should be the new imperatives for the survival of nature's capacity to support human life. Therefore, natural resources should be equally distributed everywhere, rather than allowing the North to take a lion's share in the exploitation of the natural resources, as now occurs.

In fact, the rich contribute more to the destruction of nature than to its safeguarding. Poor countries seem to be less destructive. However, the rich countries have the capacity to develop technologies which are friendly to nature. It was further noted that rapid population growth has a direct impact on nature.

Agricultural research has been central to increasing food production and adequate food supply. However, it should not only focus on high potential regions and on methods that only rich farmers can afford, but must also produce plant varieties and technologies suitable for poor farmers and for use on marginal lands.

The group supported the Commission's recommendations on raising the income of the poorest by improved access to the most arable land through agrarian reforms, while reducing the amount of land used to raise animal protein and providing farmers with capital and technology. Soil and water conservation need to be given priority as well.

How to protect nature's basic ingredients of air, water, land and trees – the basis for ecosystem protection – in a sustainable way?

Several answers were offered, such as

- the use of suitable agricultural inputs,
- more sustainable management practices with the participation of all the stakeholders,
- recycling the soil and water resources rather than wasting them, for instance by recycling sewage water for agriculture or by collecting rain water and applying desalinization processes.

It was recommended that

- harvesting of rain water and desalinization,
- introduction of biofertilizers to agriculture
- as well as water treatment and recycling at affordable cost, be pursued as a matter of policy.

All water rights should be reviewed to meet the needs of societies; this has to include the use of rivers and tributaries.

Another protection can be given by addressing the issue of over-fishing:

- fishing activities should be coordinated at global and national levels;
- ocean problems have to be solved by multiple measures, including the development of effective market mechanisms in order to discourage over-fishing.

The group recommended that the developed countries adhere to the international agreements governing the utilization of the global commons, i.e. preventing over-fishing and sea pollution. Fishing property rights should be created, e.g., titles to exploit fishery resources, and the allocation of trade quotas to countries or communities.

Environmentally balanced aquaculture should be developed. Policies should be fostered to reduce human exploitation of the seas, bearing in mind the carrying capacity of aquatic resources.

Greenhouse gas emission can be reduced by using renewable energy sources that do not pollute the atmosphere. Technologies capable of reducing the pollution of air by smoke need to be introduced.

This requires cheap, fuel-efficient stoves, designed in collaboration with their intended users. Pollution should also be combated through aquatic research.

Laboratories on renewable energies should be established and their networking promoted in order to bring about positive results.

Countries should adopt policies that integrate sustainable use of wetlands. As forests are in crisis and deforestation is at the heart of the loss of habitats and biodiversity, special attention is needed for national forest strategies. These should include policies and means of application to increase productivity, stop forest degradation, improve the benefits from forests, increase the incentives and effectiveness related to conservation, management and sustainable development of forest resources and biodiversity.

There is need for preservation of an optimal biodiversity through policies that retard the spread of farmland and urban land into virgin tracts. There is also urgent need for sustainable management of natural areas already in use: besides forests, the rangelands, coral reefs and wetland in Eastern and Southern Africa.

All key stakeholders - the small farmers - should be fully incorporated in the planning and implementation of programmes for the conservation of the earth. Policies should allow joint management of the resources.

Above all, there is a need for a strong political will.

3. Combating exclusion

For a social policy with quality of life as priority

Report, p. 114-134 + 296-298

The rising domination of the market-based economy occurred at the expense of care. When scarcity of resources occurs, it is inevitably at the cost of social investment in education, health, and housing. The limits of the existing development models are apparent indeed, in the critical situation represented by the hundreds of millions of deprived people, by the social inequalities leading to suffering and the rupture of social cohesion.

The notion of caring for ourselves, for each other, and for our environment is the foundation upon which the sustainable improvement of the quality of life must be founded.

This working group understood social exclusion as the deprivation of the necessities and comforts of life, e.g. work, income, food, shelter, etc.

'There exists social exclusion in our countries in education, employment, health and nutrition, in matters of access to capital (land tenure, credits), and of human and political rights'.

The main causes are poor allocation of resources (skewed), self-exclusion through customs and beliefs, structural adjustment, poverty, inappropriate education (training), corruption and colonial legacy, lack of awareness, militarism, dictatorship, self-centredness, abandonment of traditional values.

The main sufferers are women, children, people with disabilities (P.W.D.), landless, urban slum dwellers, street children, refugees and displaced people. This social exclusion is currently further fueled by the prevailing market-based economy.

The group elaborated the following strategies to combat exclusion.

- Countries should have a national social development plan to combat social exclusion. But how to implement a national development plan involving all major elements of quality of life (cf. Report, p. 298), with a poor economic base and a lack of organisational capacity?
- 'A new frame of mind should be first implemented in the North where we feel that self-centredness is highly concentrated: e.g. the dumping of their nuclear and toxic wastes in the South, the wasteful consumption pattern, the debt burden and tied grants and loans, the pollutants from their industries...'
- The exclusion is partly caused by the affluent Western Europe, Japan and North America; their domination in the world economy perpetuates social exclusion. But for members of this group the Report does not state this clearly nor does it suggest a framework of implementation.
- What is needed is a participatory planning: strategies and policies should descend to the grassroots for decisions. This supposes that NGOs, societies and government empower people in an enabling economic environment. As per the

Ugandan model, resources have to be transferred to local authorities, local councils and cooperative unions. Local authorities should be empowered to collect taxes and decide on what to do with them. Power and control must be invested in the people, nobody should decide on their behalf. What the government does for its citizens should not be regarded as charity but as peoples' rights.

- Micro-economic goals should not jeopardize the new humanism of 'care'. There is a need to create and adopt a new value system, that is free from bias in gender, class, race and belief systems. This new value system would be undoubtedly a driving mechanism towards the elimination of social exclusion. But 'who is to develop it'? This should be everybody's task from the family level to the national level. Others say that a value system of new humanism will not eradicate social exclusion: it is utopian, since it seems that the North is not prepared to allow the South to empower itself.

4. Making population a government priority

Report, p. 135-145 + 298-299

The Commission suggests a holistic approach whereby population policies must be seen as one element of a system embracing all aspects of society and the quality of life. Population policy, whether explicit or implicit, should become a fundamental and collective responsibility of a country's entire machinery of governance - of both government and parliament, and not left to advisory bodies alone.

These policies must always be exposed in their full context, not only within the societies concerned but also in relation to the universal goal of sustainable improvement in our quality of life.

Population policies in many developing countries came into being as a response to some social or economic problems. Their main focus has been mainly on fertility reduction. Other components of population change have been left aside. Tanzania has an explicit population policy which was adopted in the early 1990s. At the institutional framework, the level of coordination between the population policy and other sectoral policies leaves much to be desired. The long term objective is to improve quality of life of the population by using an information, education and communication (IEC) approach for people to make informed decisions on family size. There is a decline of fertility in the country, but it is not known whether this is due to the implementation of the policy or due to other factors such as economic hardships.

On the sustainability of the policies, it seems that there is a lot to be done. Government commitment is low; most of the programmes depend on donor funding. There is also a need to improve public commitment through involvement of local experts and target groups through community participation in the programmes. Donors should only supplement local efforts. The population policies should focus on the other components of population change such as mortality and migration. Policies whose main emphasis is on family planning or fertility reduction are in conflict with attitudes at the family and community levels,

despite being in line with national attitude or desires. Fertility reduction should be an outcome of a better quality of life and not the cause.

Polygamy as well as situations in matrilineal societies prompted the group to recommend that women be at the centre of the decision to 'choose their family size freely and responsibly'.

A population census based on quality of life criteria must be built into all national/sectoral policies.

The policy is now in a process of being revised to accommodate recommendations made in various global summits and likely from this Report and the deliberations of this seminar.

It is the responsibility of governments to ensure a population policy at a high level of government structure, but it should also go down to the lower levels of government structure and to local leaders. These leaders can be integrated since even at local levels the communities may have different priorities. Budgets can be set and acquired fully or partly at local level, e.g. village governments, and not necessarily only from central government or from donors. Imbalances in the population policies should be corrected (Report, pp. 143-149). Governments should commit more resources for the implementation of population policies instead of depending on donors, whereas donors priorities should not overlook national and community priorities. There is a need for more public participation in drawing up population policies. There should be democracy at all levels of the community in matters pertaining to their quality of life.

Care should be taken in introducing new reproductive technologies. Committees on ethics in New Reproductive Technologies (NRTs) (cf. Report, p. 299) should include religious leaders so that the standards do not come in conflict with the views and beliefs of these important social groups.

Finally, the population policies should influence other policies and focus mainly on issues that promote quality of life such as education, health, legal rights and not dwell much on fertility reduction. 'More now than ever before, politicians will need to appreciate that now we need to be guided by some vision, e.g. enhancing quality of life, and thus move away from simplistic approaches to the issue'.

5. Creating jobs in the context of the emergence of the informal economy

Report, p.146-169 + 299-302

A large part of the informal sector in developing countries is part of the hidden economy, one expressing the desperate fight for survival and often intended to evade fiscal control and labour standards. The answer is not harassment and persecution. A solution is to upgrade the informal sector, along with other small businesses and crafts that do follow the rules. This means giving small, informal entities equal access to governmental credit or to foreign exchange (where this is regulated).

For all participants work is central, not only because it produces material return, but also because work gives a sense of social identity and integration. However, the definition of work is often narrow, since it does not include activities of the informal sector. Work, broadly defined, means 'gainful employment', including paid activities and informal sector activities. One should find means to quantify the unpaid activities.

Governments still regard working on land as unemployment. A majority of women work on the land, so they are regarded as unemployed... Most of the African women work in agriculture, they produce, process and market most of the food. In addition to child-bearing, providing health care for the family and running the household, women spend the equivalent of an eight-hour day job transporting water, fuel and goods (especially in the rural areas). Women also run most of all micro-enterprises in developing countries. They do whatever environmental protection work is possible - for example in soil conservation.

A lot of unemployment in urban areas is due to rural-urban migration which is a result of poor social services in rural areas. Formal employment has been reduced by the structural adjustment policies of retrenchment through privatization, cuts in government expenditure, foreign competition against goods produced by internal informal sector.

Globalization should not negatively affect employment and job security. It is recommended to carefully negotiate during World Trade Organisation meetings, to diversify production in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to discipline the informal sector operators and to relax licensing regulations. Specific economic policies need to be tailored for the informal sector, so that it can have access to resources such as land and capital.

The focus should be on rural areas, particularly in improving the infrastructure for production and better social services to combat the rural-urban migration. Government, the private sector and NGOs should cooperate in order to invest in rural areas.

In order for the informal sector to be viable, it needs:

- government recognition and support without harassment,
- political support, especially after elections periods,
- provision of relevant training, by the government, regarding legal rights and obligations in production and marketing.

It must be remembered, however, that in opening a free global movement of goods, developed countries will take advantage of the free movement as they have the marketing skills and financial power. So developing countries will find themselves continually marginalized.

6. Improving education for everyone

Report, p. 170-195 + 302-305

Education improves the quality of life and empowers people to solve all kinds of social and environmental problems. Education is often seen as a fixed stage in life. But if we are to reach the full potential of education in

order to solve economic, social, and environmental problems, we must free ourselves of this limited view. The full potential of education is today far from being realized in almost all countries. In developing nations the right to basic education has not been met for 1.3 billion adults and children. Education may be the only man-made system that has remained inert, and only marginally affected by the technological and information revolutions.

This group emphasized the utmost importance of education, which was seen as the key to life. Education improves quality of life. Education empowers people with the ability to solve social-economic problems. Education is a tool for economic growth. Education helps to find employment.

Information is power. If you are not educated, you lose out or you are marginalized. Provision of quality education with expected results is important.

Obstacles to quality education are sometimes tradition and culture, conflicts, demotivation of teachers, lack of equity in allocation of education resources, poor infrastructure. They vary from region to region.

Planning is mainly based on the usual top-down approach, and this affects the (lack of) funding and the quality of education. Planning for proper provision of education should go hand in hand with population expansion. Social mapping while planning ahead is a prerequisite for success.

Education should be seriously considered for funding. In Tanzania funds for education are only 2.5 per cent of the national budget. For education, Tanzanians spend outside the country (Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Europe, U.K.) more than they are prepared to spend in their own country. 'People who are responsible here are taking the children out'. Remuneration of teachers is not well addressed in many developing countries. Communities should be aided to be financially empowered, so as to be able to contribute to education.

Local governments should have the power to collect taxes, also from the informal sector, for education. Households together with the business community are the only organisations in a developing country that can possibly fund education.

There are many drop-outs in schools and repeaters due to tradition and culture, such as early marriage, due to economic reasons such as child labour, due to lack of advocacy on the importance of education. One suggestion would be to alter the school term to fit community needs.

Education is a human right and all governments should struggle to provide lifelong education. It should cater for all, men and women. Functional literacy should be promoted through literacy schools. However, in many countries, the desire to make education a human right fails because of poverty. Especially important is:

- the economic empowerment of women at household level so they can send girls to school,
- the reduction of workload of women, confidence building and empowerment of women in decision-making. 'Education is more important for females than for males, because they become mothers'

The use of new technologies in education, designed for specific ages and needs should be seriously considered. The technologies should be appropriate to environment, age and gender. New technology is essential in order to reduce costs of education per capita. But 'let's have what the economy allows us'.

Too much emphasis is put on the cognitive side rather than on values. Education should also include moral values and overall care of the society.

7. Advocating health care, including reproductive health care

Report, p. 196-212 + 305-310

The Commission advocates the adoption of the primary health-care model, including the best of the traditional and alternative therapies, and developing in a balanced way medical and hospital care at the same time. In poor countries female education is probably the most effective health measure known. While a health policy focused on curative intervention is bound to fail, one including public-primary health care measures is more likely to succeed. The health sector needs a sea-change in attitudes towards the treatment of patients.

The group agreed with most of the recommendations by the Commission, such as:

- Preventive and curative services are there for all (Report, p. 305). Tanzania has the infrastructure for offering primary health care (PHC). However, the operational budget has been low, which affects of course the provision of the sources. The home care component and traditional medicine need to be developed further.
- A comprehensive health policy should be particularly attentive to women's needs (Report, p. 306). Tanzania uses trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) to promote health care services and safe motherhood, especially in rural areas. The same TBAs are used as agents to provide contraceptives and promote other health care services, e.g. nutrition, breastfeeding, etc.
- Pressure groups should influence international financing institutions and donors so as they do not reduce the social service budget, as stipulated in most structural adjustment programmes.
- Reproductive health rights are not negotiable. It already exists in the Tanzanian national health policy.
- Concerning abortion, though induced abortion is illegal in Tanzania, except when the mother's health is at stake, complications deriving from it are not treated as being of criminal origin.
- Specific strategies for adolescents and youth should be adopted.
- In Tanzania family planning is voluntary and community-based, with extensive use of mass media and utilization of internal experts. There is however the need for more research in new family planning methods, before they are shared with people. For example, why do people in developing countries use depo-provera, while these are not used in developed countries?

8. Fostering the new social force of women

Report, p. 234-252 + 311-312

The male-dominated society tends to 'veil' its women. Equal-pay legislation should be adopted and expanded in all countries so as to incorporate the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

All economic and social planning should be subject to a 'gender audit' to assess their effects on women's quality of life as well as on the inequalities persisting between men and women. Poverty and illiteracy continue to have female faces.

The world stands at the swelling of a new wave, a wave that will bring in its sweep the right and the duty of women to add their experience and their culture to the organisation of both society and economics.

Fostering the new social force of women was conceptualized in terms of empowering women. Empowerment was defined in terms of access to education, employment opportunities, wholesome health care, production resources including credit, high level decision-making, political participation and leadership. Empowerment implies also the capacity or ability to perform and compete and to control the management of resources. 'Women do so much and get so little. They are working bees. However, what a man can do, a woman can do better'.

It is necessary to differentiate between empowering women and developing them. Women cannot be developed, but they can develop themselves, and that is what they always do through their hard unremunerated un-recognized household, community and domestic activities. On the other hand women can be empowered or facilitated to enable them to develop themselves together with their households. Such empowerment can be in terms of improved access to resources, employment, health, decision making, political participation, training, leadership skills, etc.

Arising from the above, the following observations and suggestions were made:

- The need for free and compulsory/universal education. If education is made free and compulsory, then both boys and girls will be forced to go to school and parents will be obliged to take even the female children to school. Gender discrimination in education because of cultural factors would be reduced. Short of this, education would continue to be a domain of boys.
- The need to balance time spent between work and recreation. Women need spare time for self development, including functional training, adult literacy and group discussions.
- The need to harness available local resources in terms of appropriate micro-technologies in energy and labour saving devices, such as solar driers, milling machines, energy-saving stoves, etc.
- The need to understand health in a broader way, rather than focusing on mere medical or reproductive health. There are health issues which are psychological such as trauma, fatigue arising from 'drudgery', nervous breakdowns arising from harassment, etc.

- The need for men to become sensitive to responsible parenthood instead of seeking the responsibility of reproduction and family planning as squarely falling on the shoulders of women. Many men tend to put the blame of over-reproduction on women. Many men are, also, against vasectomy and tubuligation. It is through the sharing of reproductive responsibilities that the high fertility rates, morbidity and mortality can be redressed, and that is when we can talk of reduced population growth rates.
- The need to include women's non-remunerated household and work in the informal sector into national accounting systems as a way of recognizing their contribution to national development.
- The need for affirmative action to give women a push where they are disadvantaged, such as quotas in parliamentary elections, high level decision-making and leadership positions. In Uganda, 30 per cent of parliamentarians are women through a set quota, but that is considered nevertheless to be a short term strategy. Otherwise women might develop a dependency syndrome, and would expect handouts all the time.
- The need for bottom-up community participation in all activities concerning or affecting them. Programmes imposed from above collapse immediately; those who impose them tend to pull out.
- The need to devise ways where families can be self-reliant in providing social security and be empowered economically through equal participation. Women need to have access to resources such as credit without collateral.
- Women need rest and recreation.

9. Harmonizing economic growth and quality of life through a new social contract

Report, p.253-266 + 312-314

We urgently need a new synthesis, a new balance among the various forces that we call market, society, environment, efficiency and equity, wealth and welfare; a new balance between, on the one hand, economic growth and, on the other, social harmony and sustainable improvement in the quality of life.

We need new concepts, new instruments to enable governments to regulate markets, and sound finance so that markets will not jeopardize humankind's survival.

We need a new equilibrium capable of creating harmony among different age-groups throughout the ongoing democratic transition, between humans and nature, between the created world and the different forms of spiritual energy that surround and sustain our world.

This group appreciated very much the way the Report describes the necessary interaction between the developing and developed world. They feared, however, that as with other previous reports, this Report will remain on the shelf without being implemented.

Globally, the Third World is at a disadvantage. The First World is looking for profit and hence puts more of its capital in middle

income countries. More than 80 per cent of capital flows from the First World to 10-12 countries of the middle income countries, with the exception of China and India. The global economy is hostile to governments that care for the people. The South is looked at from the perspective of the developed world, producing privatization, liberalization, restructuring of services. Third World countries do not have indigenous capital. Hence privatization results in alienation of local capital.

- A new social contract in the context of economic growth and quality of life would place people at the center. It should address itself to issues of peoples' welfare: we have to have a balance between social harmony on one hand and economic growth on the other. Only then can we obtain a sustainable quality of life. In order to reach a meaningful balance, the question of citizens' participation is of vital importance. We have to look into how people are mobilized, from the individual level to the community level, through NGOs. Leaders should always, of course, have the peoples' consent and be accountable to them. Pressure for having a certain course of action and working towards that action has to come from the people themselves.
- There is need for a clear contract of governing between the government and the citizens being ruled. 'Where are we likely to get this new commitment? This is where the important question of moving from vision to policies comes in'.
- We need to strengthen peoples' participation in the structure of governance at every level. Policies must be acceptable to very ordinary people, giving them their basic rights. People hesitate to participate sometimes. This may be because they are uncertain, in terms of feeling insecure of what will be the outcome of their participation.
- As a final observation, 'since peoples' needs and problems increase in quantity and complexity, for proper peoples' participation, special care should be given to methods of approach so that people do not feel offended, because if they do they will never participate'.

10. Finding new funding mechanisms

Report, p. 267-285 + 314-320

The Commission recommends that a flat transaction charge should be levied uniformly, equally, and universally on all present and future types of financial transaction occurring in the globalized marketplace. If the levy were fixed at a rate of 0,01 per cent of each transaction, the potential yield is estimated to exceed \$150 billion annually. This sum, in itself, could go a long way towards financing all of the globally agreed priorities and internationally agreed programmes, including those advocated in the Report.

The theme of this working group was often picked up in private discussions and in the plenaries. Is it possible to follow the Commission's suggestion and to charge uniformly, equally and universally a levy on all present and future types of financial transaction? On the one hand, all agreed with the recommendation to charge a levy of 0.01 percent for each

international financial transaction. On the other hand, many thought that the proposal may pose a major constraint on legal grounds, particularly on the part of some developed countries. They therefore emphasized that meanwhile, more efforts should be directed towards developing mechanisms for mobilizing internal resources.

These mechanisms include:

- the examination of the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner,
- the reaffirmation of priorities pertaining to quality of life, especially food/nutrition, health, education and shelter,
- the critical probing of the management and the utilisation of available internal and external resources.

Their final question was: will equity be realized if one is dependent on the market forces? The answer must be: No!

Many discussions therefore focused on the Report's proposal to find new funding mechanisms in order to pay for internationally agreed priorities, such as environment, health, education, water and other quality of life rights. Substantial resources must be mobilized². Given that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are poor, having less than US\$ 1,000 per capita, not much money can be mobilized locally. Official development aid currently is about US\$ 50 billion. Yet it should be US\$ 130 billion if developed countries were to contribute the 0.7 per cent of GDP they have agreed to. To tax military trade, air tickets or environmental distribution are approaches that would be more costly than what can be collected. The Report therefore proposes a new approach: a tax on International Financial Markets. However, some powerful nations and multilateral organisations are opposed to this approach. Sub-groups in the world like SADC should initiate steps to pass a resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations to initiate a study. This can be done in the next session in September 1998.

The reactions were numerous. A principal economist of the Ministry of Finance recommended that we 'influence' those governments opposed to a tax on the International Financial Market. Decision-makers and heads of multilaterals must be persuaded, he stressed, to accept the new funding. Another expressed scepticism. According to him, the issue of funding is indeed vital. If you separate funding from the plan, you can not make a headway. Funds do confer power and leverage. But donors do refuse to put their money in a common basket, because, as they claim, that will leave them without explanations to their tax-payers. Nobody, he thinks, will give their money to a so-called neutral disbursing body. Taxing or charging multinationals will not work, because they will most likely not cooperate, nor reveal their incomes. University representatives, on the other hand, recommended that the governments in the East-African region should - through regional organisations, c.g. SADC and PTA, and also through OAU - take this important suggestion (to tax Financial Markets) to the UN Assembly. One way to do that, they said, would be to communicate and brief the President of the Republic of Tanzania, so that he can take it further.

Quality of life improvement not only requires funding for implementation of internationally agreed programmes, in all of the relevant areas. It also needs an effective guarantee through independent and effective policing and judicial processes, including national legal frameworks. The importance of a working and efficient judicial sector at multiple levels - providing rapid and equitable responses - is critical, firstly, in giving people a sense of security and freedom from fear; secondly, in giving people a channel of access to legal adjudication regarding the implementation of rights-satisfying programmes; and thirdly, in providing a means for normalizing processes to suppress corruption and criminality, major factors undermining the effective utilization of resources (both current and potential).

THE ROUND TABLE MEETING

In the round table meeting, the regional participants were invited to elaborate on their views and response to the Report of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life.

ETHIOPIA

Mr Yusuf Hassen, representing Ethiopia, recalled first of all his country's ancient history and civilization. However, Ethiopia's history has been also characterized by a series of civil wars as a result of the struggle for power or the struggle to assert human and democratic rights. Lately, it went through one of the most bitter civil wars in Africa which lasted for an uninterrupted period of 30 years (1960-1990), especially in the northern part of the country.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Forces (EPRDF), which was previously fighting against the Military Dictatorship of Mengistu Hailemariam, entered the capital victorious in May 1991. The peace dividend which Ethiopia is enjoying ever since has contributed significantly in channeling the country's financial resources for economic and social development. Various commendable measures are being taken to improve the quality of life of the people, as are briefly illustrated hereunder :

- Democratic elections were held regularly since June 1992 to elect the people's representatives starting at district level and going up to the national level. A very important measure taken to improve the democratization process is the policy of devolution of power to the administrative regions which obviously allows the people for the first time in their history to have a direct say in the running of their day-to-day affairs. For instance, regions have full power in allocating their budgets in any manner that they wish. They are entirely responsible for the administration of justice, economy, education, health, social welfare, etc.
- Another significant measure was preparing and endorsing the new Ethiopian Constitution on the basis of the views and comments of the people. For instance, for the first time in the history of the country, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations was fully incorporated in the new Ethiopian Constitution, thus ensuring civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is hoped that soon mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that such rights are fully respected and implemented.
- Women, who during the previous administrations were considered to be second class citizens, have now been guaranteed equal status in the new Ethiopian Constitution. To ensure equal treatment, the government has established a Women's Bureau in the Prime Minister's Office to ensure that women are given their proper place in society.

Therefore, greater efforts are expected to be taken to ensure women's representation in matters dealing with employment, placement, promotion, training, credit facilities, etc. Affirmative action has also been put in place to redress past inequalities and injustices in society.

In order to liberalize the economy which was previously a command economy, the government took measures in privatizing state-owned factories, farms, hotels, financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies.

As a measure of reducing military expenditures, which previously had a share of 60 per cent of the national budget, the government drastically cut down the size of the army, which at one time reached 500,000, to only 10-20 per cent at the present moment. There is no doubt that such a measure helped tremendously in reducing the budget gap between incomes and expenditures to a reasonable level.

On the question of population, unfortunately the country's annual GDP growth rate (2.5 per cent) lags much behind the population growth rate, which is estimated to be around 3.5 per cent, considered by many to be one of the highest in Africa. The country at present has a population of 55 million. Such an uncontrolled birth rate is no doubt placing a heavy burden on available land. Furthermore the soil is being constantly eroded, following its overuse and massive deforestation, thus yielding relatively low productivity. Experts estimate that the present level of forestation does not exceed 2.7 per cent against 3.6 in 1980, 16 per cent in 1950, and 35 per cent in 1900. Unless drastic measures are taken to immediately reverse the situation, the country may well be devoid of all its forest resources within a relatively short period of time.

The IMF/World Bank policies and conditions which urge the government in privatizing state-owned organisation in the country have unfortunately led to thousands of employees being laid off from their jobs thus affecting the quality of their lives as well as families and relatives.

The recent shortages in rainfall and dramatic changes of weather have resulted in poor agricultural production thus exposing once again at least three million people to hunger and starvation. The government has already approached the international community to assist the people in food and medical supplies.

MALAWI

The Hon. Chakufwa Chihana, the former Vice-President in Bakili Muluzi's government, anticipates structural violence in Malawi in the next election because of lack of vision and the aftermath of the one party state. The political situation in Malawi has been violent until 1992 when multi-party democracy was introduced.

Malawi's population grew from 4.4 million in 1966 to 7.9 million in 1987. In 1995, the population was estimated to be about 10.3 million, while the current population growth rate is estimated at 3.2 per cent per annum.

In 1966, the population below the age of 15 was 44 per cent. This proportion increased to 46 per cent in 1987. And the proportion of population aged 65 years and above is 4 per cent. Also, the female/male demographic ratio in 1995 was 51/49 per cent of the official population (of 10.3 million).

Malawi ranks among the most densely populated countries in Africa, with a density of 110 persons per square kilometer and 200 persons per square kilometer of arable land. Its population is unevenly distributed with 162 persons per square kilometer for the Southern Region (highest density), 113 for the Central Region, and 44 for the Northern Region. The district with the highest density is Blantyre (379) and that of the lowest is Nkhhotakota with 48.

Given the high proportion of the population below 15 years, this implies a high dependency ratio, which has increased from 0.92 in 1966 to 1.01 in 1987³. Assuming a slow decline in both fertility and mortality, however, it is estimated that the population will be 17 million in the year 2012. The population growth rate is due to a high and stable level of fertility and a slow decline in mortality.

At the moment, Malawi's population unofficially at 11.1 million (officially 10.3 million) boasts 30 per cent of households headed by women who are either single, divorced or widowed. And another 10 per cent of households who are also headed by women with either missing or absent husbands.

Education

The main policy objective of education is to improve equitable access to educational opportunities, to achieve a proper balance in resource allocation and to improve the internal efficiency of the educational system.

Enrolment in primary education increased from 899,459 in 1985 to 1.998 million in 1993/94, i.e. about 60 per cent of the primary school-age population. However, access to both secondary and tertiary levels continues to pose a serious problem. Following the introduction of free primary education in 1994/95, enrolment increased to 3.2 million. With the introduction of a waiver of school fees for girls under the Girls Attainment in Basic Literacy and Education (Gable) project, there has been a noticeable increase in enrolment for girls in the primary school system.

Of the primary school leaving certificate passers, only 12 per cent were, on average, admitted into secondary school. Moreover, the education system is characterized by low internal efficiency as indicated by the high drop-out rate of 10 per cent for girls and 8 per cent for boys -and a high repetition rate of 21 per cent, a low promotion rate of 70 per cent and non-enrolment and low completion rates for girls.

Because of this trend, the adult literacy rate is, at 42 per cent, still low. Only 32 per cent of women are literate as compared with 52 per cent of males⁴. This is due partly to the fact that

education in Malawi is not a homogeneous fact. Also, the quality of education received is itself unequal and gives rise to discrimination between boys and girls that can endure throughout adult life.

And this, too, has on the part of females in Malawi a physical, economic and socio-cultural and psychological dilemma. An important aspect affecting women employment, their remuneration and position (status) in society is this traditional education system in Malawi.

The largest proportion of women are still employed on lower-paid, less-skilled jobs and, in consequence, their average earnings are considerable less than those of men. Such differences can be reduced by the better-affirmative action/better education and vocational training of girls and women so as to raise their qualifications and, also, their social awareness.

In Malawi, like in all tradition prone societies, the recognition of women's rights by society at large would hasten the process of translating words into deeds.

SUDAN

According to Dr Saddik Mohamed Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, the population growth rate in Sudan has been declining from 3.1 per cent in 1973 to 2.8 per cent in 1983 and 2.6 per cent in 1993. Fertility is also declining. In 1995 the total fertility rate was estimated to be 5.4. Population density is 10 persons per square kilometer. There is no problem regarding overpopulation, but there are two other relevant population problems. The first one is urbanization. The population in Khartoum for example has increased to 2 million in the last 2 years. The other one is the displacement of people, because of the war and because of desertification and drought. Sudan has a National Population Council under the President's Office.

Concerning quality of life, Sudan recognizes social development as an ultimate goal, through economic development. Much is being done to define and measure social indicators in some areas, like social welfare, health and education. Poverty studies are going on for the last 3 years. The major indicator of poverty in the Sudan is malnutrition. The planning for social development in Sudan follows 'programmes', e.g. EPI (extended programme for immunization), eradication of malaria, Basic and Higher Education Revolutions. Sudan follows a federal system which assists very much in the equity of income and resources within the state ('wilaya'). In Sudan there are 26 states and each state is responsible for its own economic and social development.

Three areas of the Sudan experience should be mentioned here:

1. Social welfare is being improved by applying the 'zakat' (taken from the rich and given to the poor) and the 'takafal fund' (voluntary funds given to the poor).
2. The Educational Revolution, consisting in a new system of primary school for children from 4 to 8 years old; in the founding of more schools and universities; in a system of

education funding which depends on the people, the families and local Councils; in the creation of parents' assemblies, taking decisions in all matters of the school including funding. They raise funds and finance schools.

3. Concerning health, there is a National Popular Health Programme. They help people with cheap medicine. Consultation of physicians is free. There are also more health programmes for mothers and children.

In three areas quality of life should be improved:

1. There is a need to encourage income generating projects in the rural areas, especially for women.
2. Although the government has made many efforts to solve the problem of street children and beggars by giving them shelter and meals, it remains a huge problem. NGOs and local Sudanese voluntary organisations should help.
3. Most teachers leave the profession because of poor remuneration. Their migration can be stopped by increasing and improving their social condition.

UGANDA

The Ugandan participants (Hon. Prof Mwaka-Nakibomeka and Hon. Augustine Ruzindana) expressed their appreciation of the Commission for its efforts in highlighting the salient issues affecting the African population today and for suggesting an agenda for positive change. They said that they agreed with most of the recommendations. However, they saw some areas that need further attention:

- The Report lacks a legal framework, they said, which would form a basis for lobbying relevant authorities to implement the recommendations.
- They would have needed to endorse the recommendations in order to take them to their countries as collective resolutions.

The Ugandan parliamentarians also saw something missing on the required domestic input or needed counter-part funding. They thought that donor communities may not be all that enthusiastic to fund-raising initiatives, if the concerned countries do not show any commitment as to what their contribution would be.

A third remark stressed the fact that global and domestic arrangements in raising the quality of life are in some instances in conflict. For example, 'how would we expect the African countries to respond positively to the call and to the radical agenda for positive change when structural adjustment programmes call for cut-backs in expenditure on education and health, and people are being laid off and are now unemployed and destitute? How would countries respond and increase budgets for the social sector when the debt burden is weighing them down, and is easily eating back into their would-be investment resources in the service and social sectors? These are important questions which need appropriate answers. Otherwise African countries will go in further debts and dependency syndromes.'

In a second series of remarks the Ugandan parliamentarians explained that Uganda had gone a little way towards putting in place programmes and structures geared towards improving the quality of life of grassroot population:

Democratisation

- Democratisation is seen as a radical positive change in Uganda, geared towards improvement in the quality of life through people's self-determination and sovereignty. The newly promulgated Constitution, with all its provisions and objectives of state policy, is pro people and gender responsive. The recent popular elections of the President, Parliament, various commissions, as well as the forthcoming local government and local administration elections due to take place, are all intended to contribute to positive change of the Ugandan population.

Decentralisation

- Decentralisation has involved devolution of power and resources to the grassroot population and to reduce central government interference with local authorities and communities, without necessarily withdrawing State responsibility. Funds generated in the local governments will be retained in the districts for development of the social sector and infrastructure. However, conditional and unconditional grants from central government continue to be given. Furthermore, security can easily be handled with decentralization.

Civil Service Reform

- Reform of the civil and public service was seen as a necessary evil to streamline recruitment, deployment and payment. There has been reduction in the army from about 50,000 men and women and the target of reduction is 10,000. However, insurgencies in the North and in the West (Kasese) have made necessary a halt in the laying off exercise. Reduction in the size of the army is intended to cut down on military spending and to transfer resources to the social sector.

Economic Reforms

- State bodies, which were draining the State because of their subsidisation, are all being privatized and sold off. Money generated from the sales is being re-located into other development efforts such as the free education programmes and improvement in the road and communication network.
- Liberalization has included removal of foreign currency restrictions. This is intended to increase private sector investment in a free trade atmosphere. Although this does not directly benefit the social sector, more investment could benefit the population through job creation and more taxes which could be channelled into the social service sector.
- Rural and urban micro enterprises have been facilitated by the institution of revolving funds by government at minimal interest rates. The Seed Money Programme called 'Entandikwa' and the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) are already operational. The target beneficiaries are youth and women organisations, individuals and the poor. Poverty alleviation is seen as a way forward towards improving the living conditions of the rural and urban poor.
- Many NGOs work hand in hand with government and the local population in various sectors such as education, health, family planning, immunisation, and modern agriculture and organic farming.

Universal Primary Education (UPE)

- The programme has been implemented by providing free primary education for 4 children per family. Basic education

would be attained and in the long run parents may take advantage of this by limiting their number of children to 4 - fertility in Uganda is 7.1 - so that they are completely free from primary education obligations. It is an incentive.

- Higher/University Education has been liberalized by allowing the opening up of private universities to take care of those who cannot be admitted in the only two government universities, but are eligible. There are currently 6 new private universities in Uganda already recognized and registered by government, and they meet the required standards comparable to Makerere University. Women in Government Universities are given a bonus of 1.5 points to enable them to compete with men. This has increased their numbers to 33 per cent.

Health

- Primary Health Care is emphasized including family planning and immunization. Although cost sharing was introduced in health centres, local people/leaders sit on the management committees to allocate released funds for various activities. This is another incentive to convince the local population that their money is used properly, and after all it is usually minimal. Concerning Aids — there is an open acceptance of the problem.

Integrity

- The integrity system has been reinforced through the strengthening of the Inspector General of Government (I.G.G.), the Director of Public Prosecution (D.P.P.), the probing Standing and Sessional Committees of Parliament, which are intended to be watch-dogs of the anti-corruption crusade against corrupt executives and members of Parliament.

Affirmative Action

- Programmes and policies have been legislated and explicitly put in the Constitution instituting mechanisms for affirmative action/positive discrimination of women, the youth, and persons with disability. All these groups have quotas in Parliament. Every district has a woman member of Parliament, and there are currently 41 districts. There are also 9 women who stood and competed with men. This has helped to raise the number of women parliamentarians. The persons with disability represent the 4 regions, one from each region. The army has 10 representatives and the youths are soon to be elected.
- For every local committee, at least 30 per cent must be women. All these efforts are in recognition of the role marginalised groups can play in national development and improvement in the quality of life of their lot and the nation at large.

Other structures

- Other structures intended to uplift and improve the quality of life of the population include:
 1. The National Population policy with a population secretariat with population officers in every district with fully equipped offices, computers and a vehicle (family planning campaign).
 2. A Nation Action Plan for Children under the National Council for Children for the Protection of Children's Rights (Friends of children organisation, free education for orphans).

3. A National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and a fully fledged operational national environment management authority implementing the plan.
4. The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) which is working on agricultural zoning, appropriate agricultural practices, extension services, drought resistant seeds, high yielding varieties, etc. and early warning systems to mitigate famine and adverse effects of fluctuations in rainfall regimes.

For the Ugandan parliamentarians these programmes and efforts are at par with the Commission's aspirations. As Prof. Mwaka said, 'selling the recommendations of the Commission will not be a difficult task'.

ZAMBIA

Zambia is a young democracy and the 30 political parties have not learnt to co-exist, says Leonard Hikaumba, chairman of the Civil Servants Union in Zambia. First of all, there is a tremendous economic challenge. Most Zambians (total population: 10 million) live in absolute poverty (70 per cent of population). There is a big external debt of 6.5 US billion dollars.

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) is underway. In this programme companies have been privatized; in the process jobs have been lost. Some companies have been liquidated. Some companies have been put under receivership. SAP means the arrival of liberalization. Local companies closed down because they cannot compete with foreign companies. Government protection of local industries is a necessity. Neither does the government have deliberate policies to enhance agricultural production.

What should be done? Leonard Hikaumba has many ideas. Negotiate to write off debts; give protection to local industries; re-design SAP; check its speed of implementation; reduce expenditure by political leadership; obtain a freehand on utilization of donor funds; devise an agricultural policy which will stimulate agricultural production. Finally, there should be a credible political opposition to offer alternatives; coexistence should be possible.

There is rampant insecurity if we take security in its wider sense. Insecurity comes in the form of economic problems, social and psychological problems, environmental problems (drought, seaweed in the Kafue River, poaching, deforestation). The impact of political conflicts in neighbouring countries is significant on the people. Zambia has not been threatened by war for a long time, but the expenditure on defense is very high.

What should be done? Reduce military expenditure to make funds available for other areas of concern; empower people economically; step up environmental protection.

The population is growing fast, although there are still a lot of vast areas which are not inhabited. Resource mobilization is still low. Therefore, the few resources available are being shared among a bigger and bigger population. Population has become a burden in terms of providing for needs. Measures to control population are underway through organisations such as Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, Maternal and Child Care at

the Ministry of Health, Anti-Aids Clubs. The rural population is still not well-informed. Men shun Family Planning Clinics let alone accepting the methods. The more children a man has, the more important he is.

What should be done? Step up civic education among rural people especially on the disadvantages of population explosion in order to regulate the size of their families. Men should particularly be targeted to be active participants in family planning. Resource management should be made more efficient.

Concerning education, illiteracy is still high. Often there are no schools or they are very far away. The quality of education is very low. The factors that are affecting the quality are the motivation of the teachers, the lack of supporting facilities, e.g. text books, teaching aids, teachers' houses, classroom blocks, roads,... The funding is low. Most female teachers shun remote areas. The response to adult education is low. Very few girls complete school.

Some remedial measures are: awareness campaigns, motivation, funds, life long education, girl child's education as a priority (e.g. by reserving 25 per cent of bursary for higher education exclusively for girls, by lowering pass marks for girls, by allowing pregnant girls to continue with their schooling).

Concerning the new social force of women, undeniably many women's organisations have been founded to deal with affairs of women (e.g. women's committees in trade unions or the Forum for Women Educationalists), but the impact is not yet felt. Their representation in Parliament is low. Most decision making bodies have few women. Most women activities for women are centred in urban areas.

What should be done? Target rural women as well; the Gender Policy should be operationalized and given government support; encourage participation of women. The approach should be that of cooperation with men and not competition.

ZIMBABWE

Stanislas Matindike, former NGO leader, and John Stewart, from the Friends Committee in Southern Africa, made some remarks concerning the situation in Zimbabwe and in Southern Africa in general.

In Zimbabwe there is a remarkable rural-urban dichotomy. For every 4 rural people there is only 1 urban person.

The Constitution has gone through a number of changes since 1979. There are still arguments about the election process. In particular the opposition parties feel that the system is in favour of the ruling party. Also the laws which are passed in the Parliament are not in line with the Constitution.

There is provision for multi-parties, but the opposition parties feel oppressed.

Concerning quality of life, three openings were mentioned: there has been a cut-down of government expenditure; the landless have been provided with land; there has been a reduction in the army since the independence.

The region is in an era of emerging oppressive regimes.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Report depends on the changes that are taking place in different countries. In most countries there is a shift from state owned economy to a more liberal type of economy which puts the emphasis on privatization.

Most of the national wealth in Zimbabwe is owned by only 1 per cent of the population, the whites.

One should strive for a different concept of security in the region and demilitarize the society, the economy, the political and mental processes. In the Southern African region there can't be security without a common security.



Some participants strongly criticized the World Bank and IMF proposals for economic structural adjustment (ESA) because of the 'social suffering' which has resulted from them. As one of them said, massive retrenchment at the beginning of the decade had brought about an intensive social crisis forcing the government to suspend the programme. Another criticized the IMF for offering credit packages on the basis of conditions leading to intensified poverty and poor quality of life.'

THE MOST URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS

During the seminar a questionnaire was handed out to the participants, asking them to list the recommendations in the Report which they thought are most urgent in their country or region, in the milieu in which they are working. The questionnaire was a way of inviting the participants to be by him(her)self for a moment and to reconsider his/her own priorities and new commitments in the light of opinions given by other seminar participants. Some of the answers cite specific recommendations referring to the Report, others summarize them in their own words, still others do come up with new recommendations. All of them express the participants' willingness to strive effectively for the very point (s)he is making and that (s)he considers as a priority.

A synthesis of these contributions would weaken the strength of these choices and the commitment of the authors. Whereas rapporteurs were able to summarize the discussions in the working groups, this questionnaire has a personal aspect to it. We therefore prefer to simply classify a choice of answers, while citing them extensively.

It is impossible to say which issue was the most important among the participants. The participants had been chosen from many different areas of occupation, reflecting the realm of education, health, security, population, development financing, and they were of course above all attentive to their own field of competence.



First of all the title - indicative of its spirit and guideline running through all the argumentations - captures the attention of a certain number of participants.

1. Caring

A MP of Malawi affirms that the government should have a clear understanding and clear bias towards the **caring** for the future - from vision to policies ('now they don't'). Government hospitals in Malawi have no drugs for instance: this retards the concept of caring for the future, he says.

One of the facilitators of the working groups, associate professor at the university of Dar es Salaam, Prof. Maghimbi, underlines that for social policy to be effective we need a new value system in which care for others is emphasized.

The director of the Tanzanian Vice-President's Office thinks that new value systems must be adopted in order to promote care, but he leaves open the question who should develop the new social value system and how?

Mr Paul Bahinda, from the Kigoma Development Association, sees the need to establish psychological, spiritual and political capacities to care for each other as determinant of the human caring capacity.

The notion of caring is sometimes understood as a corrective amidst the econocentrist rules of which the ESAP has become a symbol. On the other hand, it is this social suffering which makes government officials, MPs and NGO representatives more sensitive today to a vision which would harmonize economic striving and social justice for all - which is one of the main issues discussed in the report '*Caring for the future*'.

2. Education

Education is definitely an issue that preoccupies many of the participants.

The President of the Civil Servants Union of Zambia thinks that as education is an essential tool for individual and national survival, funding for education should be increased, not only by the government but also by a 'bottom-up approach' using alternative ways of raising funds.

Leonard C. Hikaumba continues by listing some desiderata mentioned by many others:

- The infrastructure to support education should be made available through improved communication (roads), classrooms, teacher's houses;
- Teachers should be motivated in order for them to provide quality rather than quantitative education.
- Cultural values which discriminate against the education of girls should be changed.

The principal education officer of the Tanzanian Ministry of Education underlines the issue of equity in education, especially by gender at higher levels of education.

Dr Godwin S. Noah not only sees education quality and relevance as an urgency, but his aim is to provide basic education for all - within or outside the formal school system.

A member of the Tanzanian Parliament lists the titles of six chapters of the Report as all urgent, but number 1 remains 'improving education for everyone'.

The secretary of a development association puts universal education before health care, women development, reproductive health, environment and human rights.

The Tanzanian coordinator of the Orphans Assistance lists also basic primary education as the most urgent issue.

Susan R. Gwalema, assistant lecturer at the Open University of Tanzania wants an improvement in education by making it lifelong and functional.

Freda Chale emphasizes the integration of family life education in the school curriculum.

For the Hon. Simpassa, Tanzanian MP, primary school education, classrooms, teaching and learning materials, teachers, are a priority. More secondary schools should be built, he thinks, especially more for girls.

Mr A.D. Mwampeta, education secretary in the Rungwe District in Tanzania concludes that education is the cornerstone of all development, but since quality of life depends on development, then education (and indeed good quality education) is most important and should be given its due weight. 'I recommend, writes Venceslaus Shayo, that the practice of self reliance be given to the young'.

3. Security

Better quality of life cannot be attained without security not only to one's life itself but also to the life of the whole family and community to which one belongs, says A.D. Mwampeta, education secretary in the Rungwe District of Tanzania.

Brig.Gen. Romanus Hellela, from the Tanzanian Ministry of Defense, stresses collective security as the most urgent issue.

The Hon. Victoria Mwaka, from Uganda recommends more precisely that military assistance, often under the cover of development assistance, should decline further and be phased out.

The Hon. J.K. Luwe, from Malawi puts security -individually and communitarian - also on top of his list.

For the Zambian participant too, military expenditure should be reduced considerably to make available resources for other critical areas. A bottom-up participatory planning and implementation process should be adopted in order to bring about the necessary changes which aim at reducing/eliminating factors that cause insecurity.

Donald Mwakipesile, chairman of the Tanzanian association of Pensioners, thinks that military spending should be reduced in peace times in order to fund social services.

Mr Khalfan, from Zanzibar, thinks that demilitarization of life is a condition for quality of life (he quotes the recommendation of the Report, p. 288 and 290). He likes the idea of a Quality of Life Ombudsman and of a Quality of Life Audit (Report, p. 291).

4. Social Justice

For many, economic spending and social justice are following opposite paths, especially through the introduction of the structural adjustment policies proposed by the World Bank.

For the Hon. Luwe, from Malawi, there is always, socially and economically, an imbalance.

The government, says Fatma Hassan Toufiq, from Tanzania, should be responsible in financing all the social sectors.

It is vital, says a Tanzanian engineer, that basic preventive and curative services be made available to all in order to avoid any form of two-tiered delivery of health.

5. Health Policy

The health policy should be implemented practically, asks Fatma Hassan Toufiq. Abortion should be decriminalized in order to avoid back door abortions which lead to health hazards and in other cases death.

Decriminalization of abortion in the health services is also a priority for Peter Riwa, from the Ministry of Health, and others.

Ms Toufiq thinks that reproductive/sexual health education should be introduced in the curriculum of primary education. She concludes that for all this the government has to shift financial resources to the hospitals.

A planner-economist in the government and NGO representatives alike demand more funds for health and the social sectors.

Enhance preventive services by allocating more resources, asks Dr G.N. Naimani, and enhance community participation.

People must be involved in planning for their welfare, repeats Patrick D. Maleva, from DARUSO.

Mr Paul Bakinda and Dr P.J. Nglio want to strive for community awareness of population and of the effects of having too many children per family.

Dr C. Simbakalia, from the Ministry of Health, emphasizes the need for basic equipment in dispensaries and health centres in the rural areas, where the majority of the people live (78 per cent).

Primary health care can be managed at the grassroot level rather than having big hospitals, argues a planner economist.

Many participants seem to agree with Dr A.D. Kiwara in wishing restoration of the PHC model for health care, community mobilization and participation for health care, equity in health care, universal accessibility of health and integration of reproductive health care within the health care infrastructure.

S.S.P. Matindike, from Zimbabwe, highlights the new understanding of population.

A statistician, A.M. Makbel, quotes the Report concerning the necessity to abandon the use of coercion in the application of population policies (p. 299). He is also in favour of an independent interdisciplinary council to scrutinize social and ethical implications of biotechnologies on fertility reduction and to overcome infertility (cf. Report, p. 299).

6. Environment

Environment is high on the list of the participants' priorities. Mr Jovin Banturaki, cooperative officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, wants to ameliorate the rural infrastructure in order to enable rural people to market their produce/products.

'Please improve rural areas', asks Susan Gwalema.

A.M. Kamagenge, from the Ministry of Community Development, and the Director of the Vice President's Office agree: 'The rural areas should get a fair share of governmental expenditures, which is possible through decentralization of responsibilities and resources to municipalities and local authorities.' (cf. Report, p. 301).

Besides education, Hon. Simpasa sees roads as a priority, especially rural roads to reach the people and transport and communication throughout the country (vehicles and phones).

A council member of the Tanzanian Institution of Engineers lists as priorities agricultural feeding capacity, water and other global commons.

Water is a big issue and a top priority for several participants: for them, novel water harvesting technologies of rain, water, desalinization, introducing biofertilizers to agriculture as well as water treatment and recycling at affordable cost have to be pursued as a matter of policy. For the Hon. Clement Wongani Salima, from Malawi, the issue is to combat **water stress and scarcity**.

The Hon. Ngotolainyo wants **forest** management being promoted through massive reforestation.

Tobias Ndakidemi sees as priorities the prevention of deforestation, including ready facilities for dealing with forest fires, and the prevention of water wastage from the mountains by the revival of traditional irrigation methods to assist the lower areas.

Other participants have picked up ideas in the Report, recognizing in them their own priorities and reformulating them. For instance human settlements in the urban as well as in rural areas should all be planned in order to provide ecosystem and biological diversity. Water harvesting and recycling must be made national policy.

Knowledge about **medicinal plants** should be disseminated to the grassroots.

Human awareness, says Mr Bahinda, and a sense of responsibility, especially towards the **grassroot groups**, should inspire those who suggest what is to be done in the elaboration of strategies concerning food production, water, animals, fish, forests and other factors affecting ecosystems. The **participation of grassroot groups** is also Mr M.W. Lufulani's wish.

Mr G. Mjema sees as priority the increase of finance to the **informal sector**. The informal sector operators need legal education. For him, womens' work which is currently unpaid has to be calculated in the national accounts.

The proposal of credit schemes for micro-firms with international support (p. 300) attract the attention of a representative of the Tanzanian administration.

Gender inequality is an issue that emerges in many questionnaire sheets, highlighting a theme present in all the working groups, sometimes more specifically (Dr Milline

NGOs and women associations should increase women's awareness to enter the political arena, including standing for elections (Hon. Prof. V.M. Mwaka-Nakiboneka).

The **North-South relationship** is always present.

For Tobias Ndakidemi and Donald J. Mwakipesile, exports from the 'North' to the 'South' should be controlled in order to avoid turning the South into dumping places for poisons of the North. Another issue is the stabilization of prices for grains and cash crops to ensure the sustaining availability of food (which would include assured storage facilities). The North is asked to develop deliberate policies of offering fair prices to exports of the South. For Prof. Mwesige Baregu, privatization has undermined equity without enhancing efficiency. He also thinks that the debt problem has diverted immense resources from investment and production. Mr Stephen Mbuni, from SAWATA, Tanzania, asks that the Security Council of the United Nations addresses the social-economic security of humankind.

Mr Chihana, President of the Alliance for Democracy, Malawi, adheres especially to chapter 4 of the Report which speaks about the economic challenge and a new production and consumption model for the globalized economy.

Some key sentences are extracted from *Caring for the Future* as they formulate the way some participants want to commit themselves:

'We recommend that implicit and explicit policies concerning population and its relationship with quality of life be regarded as a responsibility of governments and situated at a high level of governmental structure. Such a role should not be relegated to advisory bodies only'

(p. 298) (Mr E.S. Mrema)

'Funding for the research and large-scale applications of renewable energy must be increased'

(p. 295) (A.M. Kamagenge, Head, Appropriate Technology Section, Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children).

'UNESCO and other qualified organisations should adopt jointly as soon as possible an effective strategy of education for all by the year 2010'

(p. 304) (Patrick D. Maleva)

'Parallel accounts (parallel to national accounts and GNP) should reflect environmental costs and depreciation of natural capital. Unless this is done, key policy decisions will continue to be made on the basis of false information. (...) We recommend also that steps be taken to measure unpaid caring services in the home and voluntary work in the community, and to value them in parallel accounts to be established nationally'

(p. 291) (N. Leone and Prof. V. Mwaka-Nakiboneka, MP)

Hon. Aman W. Kabourou's priorities summarize well the general spirit in many working groups: first, 'all those aspects dealing with equity'; second, 'the setting of minimum standards for factors essential to quality of life'.

Some participants thank the Commission for its valuable work. Mr E.S. Mrema, from a Kilimanjaro environment NGO, invites the Commission to join hands now to formulate sustainable policies from visions observed so far. The Commission, he says, deserves 'medal and ASANTE'.

CONCLUSION

The seminar of Dar es Salaam resembled a seminar as one imagines it should be: the participants had obviously come to study the Report's recommendations, to think about themselves and to explain to others their own options. They also discussed the apparently inevitable incongruities of political and organisational life and were able to nourish themselves with a new global vision. Some participants lauded the new humanism, of which they found the Report an expression. Everyone seemed willing to be a creative transformer of situations that they witness daily and consider unacceptable in an Africa that has been left behind in the international economic upswing.

At the end of the seminar, some participants expressed the wish to establish an ongoing structure, in order to enable certain actions and to hold other similar seminars in the region, either internationally or nationally and locally. Prof. Mwesiga Baregu, political scientist, found a sense of 'déjà vu'. It is not clear, he said, what has changed to create an environment conducive for this report to be successful. Mr B.L.M. Bakobi proposed to review this Report and our discussions after 10-20 years and he asked

the participants to have a target and vision for it. However, the Independent Commission is not a new institution and has terminated its work by publishing its report and by disseminating its contents. The local Organizing Committee has been set up to organize the seminar, but cannot be politically active.

On the contrary, every participant was invited by the Hon. Prof Victoria M.M. Mwaka-Nakiboneka (Uganda) in her closing remarks to become 'ambassador of the Commission's crusade of caring for the future as a radical agenda for positive change'. Raising the quality of life, she said, should be the concern of every government, institution, community and individual that is committed to the welfare of their lot. The participants who had the chance to brainstorm and share each other's experiences and enriched their understanding of the problems facing them, now know what the problems are. 'It is a challenge to us all to popularize the Report to our own people in authority for positive consideration. At this juncture, I wish to thank the Commission for its innovativeness to come out with this working Agenda for the future of Africa'.



**List of the participants in the work
of the South and East African Seminar**

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella

Keynote Speaker

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Prof. Emerita Monique Bégin (Co-Chair)

Member of the Commission

Prof. Dragoljub Najman

Adviser to the President

Dr. Léonard Manneke-Appel

Consultant to the Commission

University of Dar es Salaam

Prof. M. L. Luhanga (Co-Chair)

Vice-Chancellor of the University

Organizing Committee

Prof. Chrysanth L. Kamuzora (Chairman)

Head, Demography Unit, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
University of Dar es Salaam

Prof. Maurice Mbago

Head, Department of Statistics, UDSM

Dr Zubeida Tumbo-Masabo

Head, Department of KiSwahili, UDSM

Dr Léonard Manneke-Appel

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Professors of the University of Dar es Salaam

who took part in several preparatory meetings on the Report, chose themselves a chapter according to their own speciality, and introduced its themes in the working groups.

Prof. Mwesiga Baregu

(Political Science)

Dr Godwin D. Mjema

(Lecturer)

Dr Samuel E. Chambua

(Institute of Dev.Studies)

Ms Verdiana Mushema

(Court of Appeal)

Dr A. D. Kiwara (MD)

(Director, IDS-MUCHS)

Prof. William Rugumamu

Prof. Samuel Maghimbi

(DTU, Sociology Dpt.)

Dr Joseph M. Shitundu

(ERB)

Dr Milline J. Mbonile

(Senior Lecturer)

Ms Christina Warioba

(TGNP)

Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala, Head, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, UDSM, helped in the choice of the Eastern and Southern African high-level participants outside Tanzania.

Participants from Eastern and Southern Africa

Dr Yusuf Hassen

Executive Director - Peace and Development Committee
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dr Siddik Mohamed Ahmed

Dean, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies
University of Khartoum - Sudan

Hon. Raila A. Odinga

Member of Parliament - Nairobi, Kenya

Hon. Prof. Victoria M. Mwaka-Nakiboneka

Member of Parliament - Kampala, Uganda

The Right Hon. Chakufwa T. Chihana

AFORD-President (Alliance for Democracy) - Lilongwe, Malawi

Hon. Augustine Ruzindana

Member of Parliament - Kampala, Uganda

Hon. C.W. Salima

Member of Parliament
Shadow Minister for Work, Supplies and Reconstruction - Malawi

Mr Leonard Hikaumba

President Civil Servants Union - Lusaka, Zambia

Hon. G.L. Mwamondwe

Member of Parliament
Shadow Minister of Health and Population - Malawi

Dr Stanislaus S.P. Matindike

Former President NANGA - Harare, Zimbabwe

Mr John Stewart

American Friends Service Committee - Harare, Zimbabwe

Hon. J.K. Luwe

Member of Parliament
Shadow Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Posts and
Telecommunication - Malawi

Tanzanian Participants (from outside Dar es Salaam)

Paul Bahinda
Executive Secretary - Kigoma Development Association - Kigoma

Hon. Hezekiah V. N. Chibulunje
Member of Parliament, Chilonwa - Dodoma

Sangito Lucas Kaaya
Arusha Cooperative Union Ltd. - Arusha

Hon. Dr Aman W. Kabourou
Member of Parliament, Ugigi - Kigoma

Khalfan H. Khalfan
Zanzibar Association of the Disabled - Zanzibar

Allan Kiula
Uhuru, Mzalendo

Edward Lowassa
Member of Parliament - Monduli

M. W. Lufulani
National Coordinator
UKIMWI Orphans Assistance - Bukoba, Kagera

Boniface S. Lutege
Secretary - Kahama Development Association - Kahama

Stephen L. N. Mbuni
Secretary, SAWATA-MKUIINZI - Mwanza

Mohamed S. Mgema
Chief Programme Coordinator - MASUDEP NGO - Mtwara

Edward S. Mrema
KEDA - Kilimanjaro Environments - Himo - Moshi

A. D. Mwampeta
Education Secretary
Rungwe District Education Trust (RUDET) - Tukuyu

Tobias R. A. Ndakidemi
Chairman, Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union LTD. - Moshi

Gerald Joseph Ngotolainyo
Member of Parliament, Moshi Rural

Wenceslaus I. Shayo
4H-Self Reliance Project State Leader - Tanga

Joseph Shija
Chairman - Green Shinyanga Group - Shinyanga

Hon. Eliachim J. Simpasa
Member of Parliament, Mbozi West - Mbozi

Fatma Hassan Toufiq
Education Officer - Harmful Traditional Practices
Education Department - Dodoma

Tanzanian Participants (living in Dar es Salaam)

A. A. Abdallah
Radio Tanzania

K. Abeda
Press

Stephen Abissay
Press

Adam Akyoo
ITV, Radio One Stereo

K. Aneda
Press

Bennett Bagonza
Journalist, The Guardian

B. L. M. Bakobi
Director, Research and Documentation - NEMC

Ernest Bange
WATU

J. A. Banturaki
Cooperative Officer - Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Ein Bisanda
Faculty of Engineering, UDSM

Deus Bonventura
Mfanyakazi Newspaper

S. B. Buberwa
Director, Human Resources Development - Planning Commission

Alex Calist
Camera ITV

Freda Chale
Executive President, TAHEA

C. J. Comoro
Head, Sociology Department, UDSM

P. Elokael
Press

Susan R. Gwalema
Assistant Lecturer - Open University of Tanzania

Abdalah Haji
Cameraman, ITV

- Brig.-Gen. **Romanus M. M. Hellela**
Commissioner for Policy and Planning
Ministry of Defence and National Service
- I. S. Hoza**
Division of Forestry and Beekeeping
- Martha Ishumi**
- Mam Biram Joof**
Unesco Representative
- R. J. Kabengula**
Librarian, UDSM
- K. H. Kachenje**
Secretary, Transport Licensing Authority
Ministry of Communication and Transport
- Amadeus M. Kamagenge**
Head, Appropriate Technology Section, Ministry of Community
Development, Women Affairs and Children
- T. Kassimoto**
- A. Kibugila**
UDSM
- Rose Killungu**
Radio Tanzania
- Rajab Kinyogoli**
Cameraman, TSJ
- Ramadhani Kitwana**
UDSM
- Simon Kivaiwo**
Nipashe
- Bertha Koda**
Institute of Development Studies (IDS), WSG, UDSM
- Thecla W. Kohi**
SWAA - T
- Margaret Kotter**
SUWATA
- A.D. Kwara**
Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
- Victor Kwayu**
Nipashe
- Felician Kweba**
Press
- A. N. Kweka**
Professor, IDS, UDSM
- Steven Kyomo**
Reporter, HEKO
- A. Lema**
GOIG
- Norbert Leone**
Vice-President, Daruso
- John Lugendo**
ITV, Radio One
- A. M. Makbel**
Bureau of Statistics, Planning Commission
- Patrick D. Maleva**
President, Daruso
- Christine Malu**
Tanzania Social Workers Association
- R. Maronbaru**
UDSM
- R. Marombo**
UDSM
- A. C. Mascarenhas**
Professor, UDSM
- Betty Massanja**
DTV
- Hatibu I. Mavura**
Bakwata,
- John Mbogoma**
Consultant UNDP
- Seleman Mdabi**
Hoja
- Cletus P. B. Mkai**
Assistant Government Statistician - Central Bureau of Statistics
- Nicolaus Mmbaga**
CEN
- Ally Mmankufi**
Mtanzania Newspapers
- Focus Mmari**
PRO, UDSM
- Hidaya Mohamed**
UDSM
- L. M. Mrina**
ITCO
- A. S. Msangi**
Professor, Open University
- I. M. Mukaruka**
Vice-President's Office

L. B. Mutembei

Medical Aid Foundation

Donald J. Mwakipesile

Chairman - Association of Pensioners and Retired Workers

Lwaga Mwambande

Journalist, The Guardian

Davis Mwamfupe

UDSM

Benny Mwangonda

RTZ

Betty Mwasa

ITV

T. Mweji

Journalist, The Guardian

F. Mwenda

UDSM

Mary Mwesiga

Medical Aid Foundation

G. M. Naimani

Head, Statistics Department - UDSM

P. M. Nanyaro

WRDP

Béatrice Ndossi

Press, ITV

T. M. Ngabo

Council Member, Institution of Engineers

P. J. Ngiloi

NGO MEWATA (Medical Women Association)

John J. Ng'ongolo

Senior Foreign Service Officer - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Errine T. Njiku

Kilimo

Godwin S. Noah

Principal Education Officer - Ministry of Education and Culture

R. Nyakyoma

DAP, Ministry of Health

R. Nyaleyū

DAP, Ministry of Health

Aloysius G. T. Nyenza

DP, Ministry of Water

P.E. Olekambainei

MCDWAC

Nehemiah Osoro

UDSM

A. Ottaru

IET

Peter Riwa

Research and Education Officer
Family Planning, Ministry of Health

Esther Sangai

ITV

Crodel Sango

Express

M. Selemani

Maelezo

Ave Maria Semakafu

Assistant Lecturer, IDS-MUCHS

Esther Semkiwa

UDSM

Marie Shaba

UDANANDA Collective

F. J. Sichona

UDSM

R. G. Sillo

C. Simbakalia

National Family Planning Programme - Ministry of Health

Finnigan Simreye

Observer (Sunday)

Patrick Spear

The Express

U. A. Steven

Press

M. C. Temu

Principal Economist - Ministry of Finance

Stigmata Tenga

Project Officer TAHEA

Zephania Ubwani

Freelance Correspondent, East African News



The leader of the AFORD party of Malawi, Mr Chakufwa Chibumba (right) talks 'over a cup of coffee' with Malawi Members of Parliament, Mr James Luwa (left) and Clement Salima (centre) when they participated in a regional seminar on enhancement of quality of life of people at the University of Dar es Salaam yesterday. (Photo: Tryphon Mweji.)



The leader of the National Democratic Party in Kenya and Lang'ata MP Mr Raila Odinga (left) speaks to newswomen yesterday on his country's general elections scheduled later this year. Mr Odinga had attended a regional seminar on the enhancement of quality of life of people at the University of Dar es Salaam. (Photo: Tryphon Mweji.)



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof Mathew Luhanga (left) listens to Mrs Gertrude Mongella (left) after she had opened a regional seminar on the enhancement of quality of life of people at the University of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is the chairman of the organising committee Prof Chrysanth Kamuzora. (Photo: Tryphon Mweji).

WOMEN'S WELFARE : Mongella urges greater attention

By Lwaga Mwambande

EFFECTS of population growth and environment degradation in the region must be assessed with a view to improving the welfare of people and in particular women, a veteran women's leader has urged.

Mrs Gertrude Mongella, past secretary general for the international conference on women and development, made the call yesterday while opening a regional seminar on the enhancement of quality of life of people at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Addressing leaders of political parties, legislators and senior civil servants in Eastern and Southern African countries, she said women in the sub-Saharan region shouldered huge burdens in production and reproduction, leading to physical ruin.

They shouldered a heavy family workload as the principal sources of livelihood in households compared to men, she said.

The consequences of family chores and burdens transcending women was low weight births and stunted children affecting the abilities and welfare of future generations, she stated.

She disputed the accuracy of linking high population growth with land degradation, saying it all depended on techniques adopted in the wake of a rising population.

Citing the case of Machakos in Kenya, she said that lengthy research work had shown that over a 60 year period, while the population grew rapidly, the result was not degradation.

Instead, there were considerable improvements to the land with increased productivity, she pointed

out.

Over 80 participants drawn from among politicians, academics and civil servants will discuss topics like prioritizing population in government policy, creating jobs within the informal sector as well as improving education for everyone.

Special attention will be devoted to advocating health care and working for a generalised improvement in reproductive health care. Thousands of expectant mothers still die due to complications related to child birth, one participant noted.

Participants from Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi will make the largest number, in the seminar, organised by the Independent Commission for Population and Quality of Life (ICPQL) in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam. It is funded by the European Union.

Environmental degradation brings poverty - Mongella

By Correspondent
ZEPHANIA UBWANI

ENVIRONMENTAL degradation is a contributing factor to poverty in many of the developing countries.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Ambassador Gertrude Mongella when opening a three day international seminar on "Caring for the future: from vision to policies."

She said many developing countries faced acute problems of land degradation mainly in form of deforestation, soil exhaustion and erosion.

"This is a threat to the very source of livelihood of these areas, manifested as drought, famines and falling agricultural yields," she told delegates attending the seminar at the University of Dar es Salaam.

The situation in African countries has been compounded by the high population growth which can hardly be supported by the declining land resources.

She said Africa has unprecedented high population growth rates (more than two per cent per annum) and which posed a doubling of a population in less than 24 years.

Mrs Mongella who was the Secretary General of the First UN Conference on Women in Beijing, China two years ago, said women were much affected by poverty and environmental problems.

"While they are increasingly becoming the main sources of livelihood of households, they are alone shouldering the heavy workload resulting among other things, low weight births and stunted children," she said.

The seminar, at the Faculty of Engineering premises, has been organised by an "Independent Commission for Population and Quality of life" in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam.

The commission based in New York recently released a 359 report on "Caring for the future" which examined the challenges that faced all countries, both rich and poor, in the last years of this century.

The report was distributed to delegates attending mainly from Eastern and southern African countries.

The Guardian - Saturday, september 20, 1997



Kiongozi wa chama cha NDP nchini Kenya, Raila Odinga (kushoto), ambaye pia ni mbunge wa jimbo la Lang'ata nchini humo, akibadilishana mawazo jana na Edward Lowassa, mbunge wa Monduli (CCM), wakati wa semina ya siku tatu kuhusu ongezeko la watu na mwelekeo wa siasa inayofanyika kwenye Quao Kikuu cha Dar es Salaam. Semina hiyo ina washiriki kutoka mashariki kati na kusini mwa Afrika. (Picha na Deus Bonaventura)

Mtanzania - Saturday, september 20, 1997

Odinga says Kenyan reform package still lacking

By Correspondent
ZEPHANIA UBWANI

THE opposition parties in Kenya are not yet satisfied with the recent reform package adopted by the Inter-Party Parliamentary Group (IPPG) and will continue the pressure before the coming general elections.

A leader of the National Development Party (NDP), Mr Raila Odinga said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the recent reform deal did not go far enough.

"We are unhappy with recommendations of the IPPG...we are unhappy with the outcome because it did not go far enough in as far as key issues of levelling the (election) playfield are concerned," he said.

Mr Odinga, who is in the city attending a three-day international seminar on "caring for the future: from vision to policies" cited key issues which he described as "the root cause of crisis" skipped by the Group.

These include the scrapping of the existing electoral commission headed by Justice Zacheus Chasoni and the creation of "truly independent" commission in its place.

Instead of scrapping the commission which has been severely criticised, the IPPG on September 11 endorsed its enlargement by appointing ten more members. The commission now has 21 members.

The opposition leader who joined UDP in January this year from Ford-Kenya said the recent reform package was not comprehensive as the opposition leaders in Kenya had pressed since mid-this year.

He likened the deal to "tying a bandage around a rotten wound without applying medicine," alluding that there were still a wide range of issues to be addressed before his country's second multi-party elections later this year.

Population commission adopts holistic approach

THE independent commission on population and quality of life will advocate for a holistic approach to critical issues on population growth in the world.

The commission, established in 1992 to search for a 'fresh vision' of population matters and economic wellbeing, will not interfere with population and reproductive health policies of individual countries.

"We suggest a holistic approach whereby population policies must be seen as one element of a system embracing all aspects of the society and the quality of life", a member of the commission Ms Monique Begin

By Correspondent
ZEPHANIA UBWANI

told a press conference in the city on Saturday.

She said the Commission believed that effective population policies were the responsibility of individual countries and the entire machinery of government.

Ms Begin, the former legislator in Canadian parliament, was addressing the press as part of a three-day international seminar on the commission's 359 page report. The seminar ended at the University of Dar es Sa-

laam yesterday.

Population policies, she added must be backed by collective political will to identify policy coherence and conflicts and facilities resource mobilisation and allocation.

She said the commission's report which was released in June this year, after several years of preparation will be translated into several languages including French, Spanish, and Turkish to reach many people.

Already more than 20,000 copies have been distributed to policy makers, NGO representatives, experts, international in-

stitutions and individuals across the world.

The 18-member commission is headed by the former Portuguese prime minister Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo who could not attend the seminar due to poor health.

The just ended seminar at the "Hill" is the first of a series to be organised by the commission to advocate on issues of population and quality of life in the world.

Others will be held in the next one year in Dakar, Senegal, Moscow, Russia and Kingston, Jamaica

Daily News - Monday, September 22, 1997

Trade unionist attacks IMF policies

By Correspondent
Finnigan wa Simbeye

IMF and World Bank policies and conditions have been singled out as major causes of deteriorating living standards and the rise in abject poverty.

Participants to a round table conference examining a report by an independent commission on 'Caring for the Future: Population and Quality of Life' held at University of Dar es Salaam made the criticism yesterday.

They blamed the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for offering credit packages on the basis of conditions leading to intensified poverty and poor quality of life.

Mr Leonard Hikeumb, national chairman for the Civil Servants Union of Zambia (CSUZ), said that privatisation of parastatal institutions in the country carried out under pressure from the two institutions have not brought up expected benefits.

"One of the arguments for privatisation was that foreign investors will bring in the country the much needed technological transfer. That has not happened, and instead Zambian foreign investors are retail businessmen," he stated.

Zambia has a population of over 10 million people and a massive external debt of about 6.5bn dollars and many of its people living below the poverty line.

Retrenchment and unfair competition has resulted in local enterprises being closed, he said, citing the example of Zambia Dunlop Co. whose tyres have failed to stand the challenge from cheap imported tyres.

The government has almost ceased to regulate or to invest in the agricultural sector in compliance with open market policies.

"This has led to falling standards of agricultural produce as peasants face direct confrontation with a greedy, profit-seeking business class," the trade unionist declared.

Mr Styn Matindike, a Rostan

Development Co. (PVT) managing director, also from Zambia said that many people were negatively affected by the Structural Adjustments Programmes (SAPs) as prescribed by IMF.

Massive retrenchment at the beginning of the decade brought an intensive social crisis forcing the government to suspend the programme, he recalled.

Ugandan presenter, Mrs Victoria Saka, a parliamentarian, had a different story to tell. She explained how the government was involving the public at the grassroots level in integrating open market policies into local policies for action.

A number of public-cum-government run programmes such as cost sharing in social services had been initiated, with supervision left in the hands of the public. She described this process as the decentralisation of resources allocation.

Uganda has already cut down the 50,000 strong army a few years back to 10,000 men in order to reduce government expenditure.

Military insurgency in the north and east of the country may curtail the military reduction programme, she lamented.

Mr John Stewart of the American Friends Service Committee said that many southern African countries think land reforms in favour of the majority may be a panacea to economic problems.

The real solution may be found in industrialisation and allowing participation of the majority in economic activities, he stated.

Mr Stewart, who is based in Zimbabwe, said that the minority ownership of national wealth increased poverty and led to deteriorating standards of living. In Zimbabwe 85 per cent of the economy is in the hands of a one per cent minority white population, he said.

Prof. Monique Begin of the University of Ottawa chaired the panel discussion, facilitated by Prof. Chisant Kamuzora of Demographic Unit of the University of Dar es Salaam. The conference was attended by representatives of ten countries in the region.

Report on

**THE WEST AFRICAN
SEMINAR**

**SAISIR L'AVENIR
POPULATION ET QUALITÉ DE VIE
(CARING FOR THE FUTURE - POPULATION
AND QUALITY OF LIFE)**

held by

**THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

and

THE CHEIKH ANTA DIOP UNIVERSITY, DAKAR
in Dakar, Senegal, from 4 to 6 December, 1997

with the financial contribution of
the Directorate-General for Development (DG. VIII)
of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium





President Abdou Diouf and former Prime Minister of Portugal Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, president of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, at the opening ceremony of the West-African Seminar, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, on 4 December 1997.

View of participants at the opening ceremony, among which from left to right: Minister Aminata Traoré, Mali, member of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life; Prime Minister Habib Thiam; Minister of State Abdoulaye Wade.





President Abdou Diouf leaves the Auditorium after the opening ceremony.

Dr Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo with Dr Souleymane Niang, Vice-Chancellor of the Cheikh Anta Diop University.



Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	41
Preparation, methodology and structure of the seminar	43
Opening ceremony of the seminar, chaired by the President of the Republic of Senegal	46
Testimony of the West African guests	49
Contents of the exchanges in the working groups	52
Combating exclusion	52
Access to education for all	54
Prioritizing population policy and health care	55
Improving security	58
Finding the resources	61
Talking to the participants behind the scenes	64
Conclusion	67
Annexes	69

*'We have a right to quality of life,
and not to be condemned
to the cruelty of mere survival.'*
General Olusegun Obasanjo

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its mandate, the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life was to draft a Report - published in June 1996, by Oxford University Press, under the title 'Caring for the Future - A radical agenda for positive change', and in French by Editions Economica, in February 1998, under the title 'Saisir l'Avenir - Changer pour mieux vivre, un programme radical. It was also to facilitate the dissemination of that Report throughout the world and to contribute to the implementation of its recommendations by the leaders of the political world and of civil society, depending on regional particularities.

The Commission sought, from the outset, to listen to the individuals and groups working on the ground in the fields of development, population and environment.

The seven regional public hearings, in Harare (Zimbabwe) in late 1993 and in Bamako (Mali), Delhi (India), Manila (Philippines), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Washington DC (United States of America) and Moscow (Russia) in 1994 brought together hundreds of people who, individually or collectively through communities or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), came face to face daily with the problems linked to population growth and the low level, or even the non-existence, of quality of life.

The deliberations of the members of the Commission and the input of the participants at these regional consultations enabled new ideas to emerge, and these are set out in the Report's conclusions and recommendations. Extracts from the meetings are also included, either as epigraphs to the chapters, in the case of spontaneous testimony, or to illustrate the subjects explored, and also as points for discussion or as potential solutions.

Continuing along the same lines, the Commission decided to open a dialogue with political leaders and various social actors representing civil society - particularly universities and NGOs - in order to implement, in the regional context, the recommendations it had set out in its Report. In her introductory speech at the Dakar seminar, the President of the Commission, Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, described

this process in the following terms: 'We have decided to evaluate, in various regions of the world, the adequacy of the ideas and practical recommendations which we have formulated and put forward in the real world where popular will, scientific knowledge and political decision-making intersect.'

The theme of each of these regional meetings is drawn from the Report's recommendations, the fundamental question being: 'How can these recommendations be put into practice in your region?'

The Commission of the European Union (DG. VIII) is contributing financially to the organization of the seminars taking place in the countries of the Lomé Convention (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific), the so-called ACP countries. The first of these seminars, for the eastern and southern regions of Africa, took place last September in Tanzania, in close collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam. The second to be held is described in this report. It took place in Senegal, in December 1997, in partnership with the Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar.

These two meetings brought together representatives of governments, parliaments and national administrations, NGOs and African intellectual and cultural circles. The third seminar for ACP countries will be held in Jamaica, from 11 to 13 June 1998.

A symposium was held on 5 and 6 March 1998, in Amsterdam, at the invitation of the Netherlands Minister for Development Co-operation, Mr Jan Pronk, who is also a member of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life. The aim of the symposium was to disseminate, at the European level, the new ideas outlined by the Commission in its Report and to urge the European leaders to implement the recommendations made, particularly those on health, education and employment.

Other seminars may be held in Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

This is a report on the West African Seminar 'Saisir l'Avenir - Population et Qualité de Vie (Caring for the Future - Population and Quality of Life)', which took place in Dakar on 5 and 6 December 1997, in close collaboration with the Cheikh Anta Diop University, which the Rector, Mr Souleymane Niang, described as one of the institutions on the African continent best able to contribute to the evaluation and dissemination of the Report Saisir l'Avenir (Caring for the Future).

The aim of this seminar was, as one of the regional participants stated, 'to bring our subregion's input to the development and implementation of new policies, the overriding goal being to achieve quality of life for all, in order to make of Man the guardian and beneficiary of the future of our world'.



PREPARATION, METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

Mali had played host to the members of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life in 1994, at the time of the public hearing for representatives of West Africa's communities and NGOs. For the Commission to give an account of its response to the dialogue which had begun on that occasion among the West African participants, it was decided to hold the follow-up meeting in another country of the region. Senegal, located on the coastline and highly urbanized, quickly emerged as a focal point for the dissemination of the local and regional action strategies aimed at putting into practice the vision of *Caring for the Future - A radical agenda for positive change*.

In Western Africa, where the population rose from 110 to 620 million between 1900 and 1995, urbanization is intense and rapid everywhere. This movement is two-pronged: from the north of the Sahelian countries to the south, and from the inland part of countries towards the coast. The future of an entire region is now being played out in these towns where, in order to absorb the flow of migrants, Africans have massively expanded job creation in the informal sector, without any assistance from outside, and in doing so have perhaps set off a chain reaction of savings and investment.

Senegalese hospitality

The Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, which was selected as a partner, is one of the great African universities. It was thus able to play a pivotal role in the preparation and holding of the seminar. A leading research centre, it has links with the intelligentsia and the authorities, and has the contacts necessary to mobilize political leaders, senior civil servants and representatives of civil society and NGOs. The University, while not separated from society, is 'a completely free, independent and autonomous space', as the Rector, Mr Souleymane Niang, underlined.

Senegal's reputation for hospitality was confirmed by the President of the Republic, Mr Abdou Diouf, who graced the opening ceremony in the University's auditorium with his presence.

The organizing committee

The fairly broad and representative composition of the organizing committee enabled each of its members to approach the project creatively and to cover all parts of it. The project's

purpose was to attempt to translate into realistic policies the precise and challenging conclusions of the Commission. In place of a residential seminar holding plenary meetings, and attended only by those directly involved in population policy, the organizing committee proposed an intersectoral approach.

This was evident, firstly, in the choice of those invited to attend. The organizers invited representatives of national administrations, parliaments, NGOs and civil society.

They then grouped the Report's recommendations into categories, and proposed that the majority of them should be examined, not in a single day by a dozen working groups, each devoting itself to a single theme, but rather by looking at the interaction between them over the whole three days, always with the same local and regional participants, selected on the basis of their skills and areas of competence.

Thus, it was decided that the working groups would hold several consecutive meetings, examining groups of interlinked themes, in order to bring a certain cohesiveness to their discussions and to their proposals for 'concrete measures' to implement the recommendations made by the Commission in the national and regional context of West Africa.

Moderators were chosen from among the University's deans and professors to steer the discussions. Meetings were held during the months of preparation to train them for this task. Their role would consist in chairing the discussions, organizing them according to the themes of the Report and working with the rapporteurs of each group to pool the results of their work. In a letter of instructions, Professor Lat Soucabé Mbow, co-ordinator of the seminar, urged the moderators of the working groups to focus on the relevant problems, to clarify the concepts involved, to encourage rapid, frank and searching dialogue, to bring structure, amid the plurality of the contributions, to convergent but disparate discourse, and to avoid unduly prolonged discussion. 'Consensuses may emerge from these exchanges of views, which will not mean that opinions are identical in every way, but that broad agreement has been reached, with room for diverging views and reservations.'



The themes

Given below are the chapter headings from 'Caring for the Future' and the titles of the corresponding recommendations which were selected to structure the discussions of the working groups at this seminar.

Report, page	(English edition) Text	Recommendations
1. Combating Exclusion		
• Responding to Needs: The 'Caring Capacity' of Humankind <i>Humanity has no Limits to its 'Caring Capacity'</i>	114	296
• Redefining Work <i>Work, Paid and Unpaid, also Assumes new Definitions</i>	146	299
• Mobilizing Social Forces: Towards a New Social Contract <i>Mobilizing All of Humankind for a New Social Contract</i>	253	312
2. Access to Education for All		
• Towards an Alternative Education Policy <i>Alternative Educational Approaches: The Promise of New Technologies</i>	170	302
• Empowering Women <i>The Empowerment of Women - A New Social Force</i>	234	311
3. Prioritizing Population Policy and Health Care		
• Attitudes towards Population Change: A Paradigm Shift <i>Towards a New Understanding of Population</i>	135	298
• From Medical to Health Care <i>New Obstacles to Health Care</i>	196	305
• Reproductive Choices <i>Human Reproduction: The New Element of Human Rights</i>	213	307
4. Improving Security		
• Focusing on the Goal: Sustainable Improvement of the Quality of Life <i>Improved Security for a More Liveable World</i>	63	288
• Respecting the Limits: The 'Carrying Capacity' of the Earth <i>The Planet has its Constraints: 'Carrying Capacity'</i>	96	292
5. Finding the Resources		
• Mobilizing Resources: Tapping the Markets <i>Finding the Resources</i>	267	314

Structure of the seminar

The West African participants were invited to speak at the official opening ceremony of the seminar. The rest of the time was set aside for the working groups, which were to meet several times every day for in-depth discussion of the proposed themes.

Daily plenary meetings for the pooling of ideas would allow each group to outline the results of its deliberations and to compare them with those of the other groups.

In view of its distinctive character, the theme relating to the mobilization of resources was dealt with in plenary, after a presentation by Mr Dragoljub Najman, Adviser to the President of the Commission.

Calibre of the participants

It quickly became clear that the key to the seminar's success would lie in the calibre of the participants (Senegalese and other West Africans); thus discernment would have to be shown in the choice of the persons invited and adequate time devoted to acquainting them with the Report's main strands, thus ensuring that they felt sufficient interest to accept the invitation.

As to their number, it was decided to invite approximately 15 senior regional figures (from outside Senegal), some 40 Senegalese nationals (from outside Dakar) and about 100 local participants. No more than five Commissioners would attend.

Copies of the Report 'Saisir l'Avenir - Changer pour mieux vivre, un programme radical' were to have been sent to the participants to allow them to familiarize themselves with the problems raised and to prepare themselves to play an active part in the seminar.

Owing to a delay in the publication of the French version of the Report, due to a lack of agreement concerning the translation of some of the key terms, only a photocopy could be sent in late October. The number of regional participants was affected by the consequent late arrival of invitations.

Furthermore, many participants did not read the working document until the day of the official opening. They then had very little time in which to assimilate its contents and to compare the recommendations with their own experiences in order to be able to formulate concrete proposals which could be used in programmes of action to be implemented in the various countries of the region.



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR

The Rector of the University wished this ceremony to be a special event. On the eve of the ceremony, numerous students acted as gardeners in the area around the auditorium. Huge banners publicizing the international seminar were hung at the entrance to the University and around the town. The clerical staff busied themselves with the final arrangements.

On the day of the opening, the protocol service had the situation well in hand. The republican guard, clad in their red uniforms and helmets, formed a line of honour at the entrance to the auditorium. Standing in front of them, the Rector of the University and the deans of faculty, resplendent in their academic gowns, waited to be presented to the President of the Republic. Numerous police officers lined the route.

By 10.15 a.m., the dignitaries and seminar participants had taken their places in the amphitheatre and awaited the convoys of cars and the wailing of sirens which heralded the successive arrival of the ministers, the Prime Minister, the President of the Commission and the President of the Republic, at exactly 10.30 a.m.

The official opening of the seminar took place in the University's auditorium. It was an important part of the event, chaired by the President of the Republic of Senegal, Mr Abdou Diouf, and in the presence of Mr Habib Thiam, the Prime Minister, Ms Marie-Louise Corr ea, Minister of Scientific Research and Technology, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, Minister of State in the Office of the President of the Republic; Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, Ms Monique B gin and Ms Aminata Traor , members of the Commission, Mr Dragoljub Najman, Adviser to the President; and Mr Souleymane Niang, Rector of the University.

After a word of welcome from the Rector of the University, the President of the Republic invited the President of the Commission to take the floor.

The large audience, consisting principally of leading figures from the political, military and intellectual life of Senegal, was then initiated into the ethos of the Commission's work, its vision and its recommendations. Ms Pintasilgo's speech so impressed the audience with its youthful optimism and the boldness of its proposals that it remained a point of reference for the whole of the seminar, giving the discussions their very structure.

We are determined to find out whether the ideas and practical recommendations that we have formulated have their place in the real world.

The President of the Commission thanked the President of the Republic for having agreed that his country should host such an initiative: 'Mr President, the warm welcome you have extended to us testifies to your conception of power as the readiness of people and institutions (an ethical concept that Jacques Derrida calls 'hospitality') to forge new paths towards a better life for all and for future generations.'

Ms Pintasilgo then defined the Commission's approach, objectives and ultimate aims. 'Our presence here indicates that we share a common desire and a deep commitment that we should be bold enough, each of us from our different backgrounds, to reflect together upon the recommendations of this text, which seeks to play an active part in the process of globalization that is melding us today into one human family.' It was, however, 'a novel task. A Commission generally completes its mandate and publishes its report, in our case having listened to countless voices in several regions of the world'. 'But we wanted to go further. We are determined to find out, in various regions of the world, whether the ideas and practical recommendations that we have formulated have their place in the real world, where popular will, scientific knowledge and policy-making intersect.'

The Commission had sought to be 'the living expression of a globalization capable of uniting without excluding, able to transcend outdated categories', 'and embrace issues which concern both the North and the South.' Half of the Commission's members came from the continents of the South, the other half from the North. Ms Pintasilgo mentioned the initiative by one member of the Commission, the Netherlands Minister, Mr Jan Pronk, to convene on 5 and 6 March 1998 representatives from the whole European continent, in order that they too might analyse the implications of the Report's recommendations for their policies.

The market does not see the weak, the poor and the unorganized.

Ms Pintasilgo emphasized the need for empowered states in the face of the challenges presented by the new phenomenon of globalization, 'nation-states which embody the collective will of their peoples. New solutions certainly need to be found; for representative democracy, noble though it may be, is no longer sufficient.

'On the one hand, the plurality of ideas and forces which are active at the heart of all societies, lending them their vitality and cohesion, must find expression. On the other, nation-states find themselves the guardians of a sovereignty which extends beyond the borders of their territory, reaching right to the frontiers of the earth itself, eaten away as they are by the undesirable effects of globalization.'

Ms Pintasilgo cited, by way of an example, the evolution of 'the World Bank, which, having been the champion of deregulation, now considers that the market, far from superseding the state, cries out for it.' Paraphrasing a remark by Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission added: 'The market, left to itself, is not merely short-sighted, but blind: it does not see the weak, the poor and the non-unionized, it is without an active conscience, driven as it is by the imperative of competitiveness.'

Indeed, only nation-states embodying a will, a conscience and a code of ethics can establish a framework for the market and determine its standards and *modus operandi*.

The starting-point
for quality of life is security.

Ms Pintasilgo also emphasized the issue of security, which was the starting-point for quality of life. 'When the Commission was just beginning its work, we asked ourselves how we should interpret this seemingly vague expression quality of life. One of the African members of the Commission, General Obasanjo, drawing on his own experiences, said: «The starting point for quality of life is security.»

Today, as war took on new forms, with internal conflicts arising from ethnic, religious and demographic tensions, armaments and the arms trade remained factors of insecurity 'for which equal responsibility is borne by those who spend high percentages of their GNP on purchasing arms and those who, despite their dominant share of the global economy and their conviction that they are the driving force of the world, enrich themselves through the arms trade'.

But security embraced all aspects of human life. 'Social and economic security are so fundamental that the Commission proposes in its Report that the Security Council should also be informed of situations in which social and economic insecurity are likely to pose a threat to peace.'

'Thus, the time has come to mobilize consciences and countries. Compassion - as a dimension of the political being and of political action - is perhaps an essential element of the new ethical paradigm which we are all seeking, as we enter the third millennium. It is up to citizens to show compassion and to demand it of those who govern them.'

The viability of life in its vast
diversity calls into question
human life as we know it.

'What we are trying to say, above and beyond any specific problem, is that the physical phenomena and the political decisions we take today are irreversible and are already shaping the future.

'The planet is being transformed into an arid terrain, in which the oceans and continents are vast graveyards for non-biodegradable, even toxic substances. And the climate is likely to become ever more erratic, leading to the destruction of coastal areas, floods and drought.'

At this very moment, at the Kyoto Conference, certain countries, thumbing their noses at 'the agreements signed in Rio in 1992, are not only letting it be known that they have failed to honour the commitments they made, but are proposing the unthinkable: a trade in rights to pollute. They are proposing that the industrialized countries should buy the pollution rights of the poor countries in exchange for a few dollars!' This 'is tantamount to a declaration of war and is morally unacceptable.' The decision to reduce carbon monoxide emissions to the 1990 level could now be postponed until the second decade of the twenty-first century!

'The viability of life in its vast diversity calls into question human life as we know it, its feasibility.'

Two complementary ideas - which also formed the fundamental axes of the Report - were now under discussion:

'The first is the 'carrying capacity' of the earth. How far can we go? How can we prevent the earth from becoming a place in which it is impossible to live? The conclusion is that there are limits which must be discovered - and then taken into account. We are standing at a crossroads in our civilization.'

'The second is the 'capacity of humanity' to take charge of its history, in terms of what it represents for the human family of today and for future generations. This is the new ethical paradigm: acting with care for others, being concerned for the good of others, the plight of others.'

'One element which permeates the entire Report is the inadequacy of our economic tools for the task of analysing and changing the patterns of production and models of consumption. Three hundred economists recently stated clearly to the Council of the European Union that it was necessary not only to rethink social policy, but also to take account of the social factor within the economy, that is to say an economy in which growth, employment, salaries, social protection and the environment are also key components. We need new mechanisms to put this vision in place.'

In methodological terms, the Commission emphasized the fact that 'population questions cannot be solved by simple causal relations. This integrated approach requires a much broader vision of science itself and of knowledge. It also demands that we curb what is known as consumption, the current model of consumption, since quantity may eventually also be a threat to quality.'

New theories and new mechanisms were needed. Examples are given in the chapter of the Report concerning the mobilization of financial resources, which the seminar participants subsequently discussed at length.

How can we prevent the earth
from becoming a graveyard?

'Who will do what remains to be done? The twentieth century has witnessed the rise of two forces which, in the face of difficulties and confrontations, have helped to shape today's world. The workers of the period of massive industrialization in the Northern hemisphere at the start of the century helped to

make work more human and to create an alternative vision of the course of individual and collective life. Elsewhere, countries which have gained independence since the Second World War - and this is the second force - have restored to all men and women - and not merely to their own citizens - the consciousness of belonging to one family and the sense of the dignity of the human person as the pivot of all actions and decisions.

'As we stand at the threshold of the twenty-first century, a new force is bringing to the world an alternative view of things, a concern for quality, a capacity to care for others, and an energy which, having been the invisible support of every society, is now breaking out from the private sphere into the public arena. I am speaking of the presence and force of women. I have no doubt that women, in co-operation with men, can make a decisive contribution to ensuring that life is livable for everyone.'

Ms Pintasilgo concluded with a few lines taken from the preface, by Bernard Kouchner, Minister and member of the Commission, to the French edition of the Report: *'Humanity has invented more in the past forty years than since its arrival on the earth. It has yet to create the most important thing of all: a better life for everyone. To whom does the misery of others belong? It belongs to everyone. And happiness: that belongs to all of us likewise'*.

Integrating the ecological, economic, demographic, social, cultural and political dimensions.

President Abdou Diouf then took the floor.

First, he emphasized the parallels between the fresh vision of the future set out by the Commission and 'an outlook, traditional here in Senegal, according to which development is meaningful only if the human element is its beginning and its end.' For 'in thinking about development, we should transcend the narrow economic approach and place at the very heart of our reflections and actions populations and their needs, their behaviour and aspirations, and the mindsets and identities on which they base their idea of economic and sociocultural progress, their ideas of happiness.'

Thus, it was in a spirit of convergence, complicity even, that the head of state praised the quality of the vision of the Report, which could not have emerged from compartmentalized, sectoral research, but only from a holistic approach capable of taking in the ecological, economic, demographic, social, cultural and political dimensions, and confronting the complexity which characterizes our world today.

President Diouf then outlined his Government's population policy, which aimed to:

- improve the quality of life and to work towards the attainment of well-being among all sections of society, by:
 - reducing mortality, particularly among the vulnerable categories of mothers and children;

- reducing the fertility rate through appropriate measures which reflected the interests of the population and their values;
- working to reduce the disparities in the population density of Senegal's regions through the implementation of a development policy intended to eliminate the causes of those disparities;
- enhancing national capacities and skills with respect to population problems in the diverse areas of demographics, sociology, history, geography, development planning, etc.

'Priority is given to the vulnerable categories of the population. Besides seeking to protect women, young people and the elderly, this involves a policy of empowering women and, most importantly of all, of increasing enrolment rates among girls, since focusing on their education and training has multiplier effects which are of particular significance for the objectives pursued, especially those relating to population issues.'

It is this idea of rediscovering our caring capacity, an ethical concept in the final analysis, which should be the true foundation of economic rationality.

In conclusion, the President of the Republic took up the affirmation, in the Report, of the concept of 'caring for others', which ought to inform the market economy. Since, in his eyes, it was this idea of 'rediscovering our caring capacity, an ethical concept in the final analysis, which should be the true foundation of economic rationality.'

These two speeches, relayed by radio, television and the press, launched the process of practice-oriented reflection which was the seminar's fundamental purpose, with everyone considering how, in their own field of work and locality, they could facilitate the immediate implementation of the recommendations in the Report.

According to an article which appeared in the daily newspaper *Le Soleil* on 5 December 1997, the Report represented a sort of 'blueprint for a fresh vision of the future' and a basis for reflection and concrete action in the local, regional, national, sectoral or global environment of each of the participants assembled on the occasion of this inauguration.

TESTIMONY OF THE WEST AFRICAN GUESTS

After the impressive opening ceremony, the seminar began its work by hearing from some of the West African participants (from outside Senegal). Their task was to place the report in the context of their countries and thus to give an African reaction to its dynamical vision.

Owing to lack of time, only three regional participants were able to speak that day:

Ms Kafui Kpegba-Dzotsi, member of the National Assembly of Togo, General Secretary of the Togolese Union for Democracy and chemistry professor at the University of Benin -Togo;

Mr Mamane Hassane, customary chief and head of the Dar es Salaam district in Niamey, Niger;

Dr Be Rammaj Miaro II, Director-General of the research consultancy, Research and Action for Development, Chad.

Each had chosen a different approach to their contribution: one presenting the situation in her country in the light of the vistas opened up by the Report; another describing his country's efforts to respond to its requirements; and the third giving a detailed analysis of the Report based on his long experience in the service of development and the environment in Africa.

A parliamentarian from Togo

Ms Kpegba-Dzotsi, of Togo, said that she welcomed the Report because it marked a clear departure from the approach to global demographic policy adopted by other institutions.

The strategies proposed by the United Nations, she said, did not always cover systematically such factors as poverty, education, illiteracy, protection of the environment and so forth. That was why, in her view, they did not gain the support of the local communities, which felt that they had other priorities. All too often, problems were identified singly, or sector by sector. Consequently, the African countries found themselves with a huge array of programmes (sometimes overlapping), their implementation beset by difficulties due to the poor use of the qualified staff available.

Ms Kpegba-Dzotsi said that she preferred the Commission's method, which sought to examine simultaneously all the ills afflicting our planet in order to find global solutions and achieve a better quality of life for all.

However, there were also some uncertainties - would every State in the world adhere to those policies?

What of the situation in Togo? A plan of action for the period 1997-2001 had been adopted on the Government's initiative. It placed particular emphasis on:

- education and literacy programmes for women and girls, (only 40.7 per cent of girls aged six to 11 attended school, compared with 72.9 per cent of boys in that age group);
- health and nutrition;
- the basic rights of women, who continued to encounter discrimination with regard to many aspects of health: harmful traditional practices, subordination to men with respect to birth control, etc.;
- reinforcement of women's economic power;
- protection and safeguarding of the environment.

Financial and human resources now had to be mobilized to translate those policies into action. Ms Kpegba-Dzotsi stressed that Togo was once again experiencing almost stable growth. 'But, despite this recent trend towards economic recovery, the basic imbalances remain significant'.

The parliamentarian¹ then urged her Government to make a real commitment to sustainable human development, the establishment of genuine rule of law, the strengthening of democracy through the organization and holding of free and open elections for all, and the creation of an equal partnership between men and women at all levels of society.

A customary chief from Niger

Mr Mamane Hassane, chief of the Dar es Salaam district in Niamey, then took the floor, on behalf of the Association of Traditional Chiefs of Niger. First, he explained that wanting to care for the future did not mean renouncing the traditions of rural Africa. It was certainly desirable, at the dawn of the third millennium, that Africa should reflect upon its future, but, as the thinkers of old used to say, 'a people that has lost its culture has lost everything', and also 'a people without culture is a people without roots'.

The customary chief was struck by the fact that all the concerns of Niger were reflected in the Report. Every subject, he emphasized, had been tackled with the aid of testimony from people who were familiar with the problems of development: the evils of poverty and marginalization; and the issues of health, personal and collective security, literacy and education, access to information, democratization and freedom of the press, migratory flows and insecurity, and so forth.

¹ The National Assembly of Togo has 81 deputies of whom only one is a woman, Ms Kpegba-Dzotsi; similarly, while there are 20 ministers, only one woman has a Government post.

Life in Africa was a matter of survival. The immediate aims for more than 50 per cent of the population were self-sufficiency in food, access to basic education, access to primary health care and shelter, etc. Niger was a major beneficiary of official development assistance: food aid following the successive droughts; emergency funds following the oil crisis of 1973; aid for rural development and the enhancement of the social infrastructure; but also aid for campaigns to raise awareness among and empower women.

Mr Hassane explained that Niger had adopted and implemented development programmes and projects aimed at tackling those concerns, including a programme to combat poverty, education projects, an expanded vaccination programme, a programme to stimulate the economy and improve the management of natural resources, and an educational programme for girl children.

An observer of underdevelopment from Chad

Dr Be Rammaj Miaro II, of Chad, made a more detailed analysis of the Report. His interpretation also served as a presentation of the Report to the seminar participants, who thus gained an overview of the document before the working group discussions had even begun!

He observed that the Report, unlike many documents of its kind, concluded by making concrete proposals. The situation of the physical and social environment in which humanity existed was catastrophic. The answer lay in changing course, or at least slowing the acceleration of the march towards the abyss to which technological progress and economic growth were leading humankind.

The introduction and the first part of the Report described the current state of affairs, identifying the population challenge, the social challenge (or facing poverty), the ecological challenge, and the economic challenge (or finding a new model of production and consumption).

The population challenge, Dr Miaro explained, was the growth of the human population, which had expanded from 700 million around the mid-eighteenth century to two billion two centuries later (1930), or by one billion each century, and which seemed to have grown since then by two billion every twenty-five years, reaching 5.7 billion in 1995. The Report estimated that the world population would reach 9.8 billion in 2050, if nothing was done to limit the number of births. The problem would be how to feed, clothe and provide subsistence for those billions without damaging the ecosystem and destroying forever our natural resources (animal and plant species, micro-organisms and mineral resources), and that raised the additional question of the quality of life on a planet which would be too small to 'carry' so many people.

The immediate consequence of that situation, continued Dr Miaro, was **the social challenge**: famine, lack of access to basic education and health services, scarcity of clean drinking water and lack of jobs and homes for ever larger sections of the population. That situation was particularly acute in Africa.

Dr Miaro recalled the figures. In 1993, the rates of growth in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East had been 8.7 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively, while in Africa the rate had fallen to 1.4 per cent, with negative growth in many sub-Saharan States. The decline in production and the drop in revenue were leading to a worsening of living conditions, particularly with respect to health and employment, already precarious, among the poorest groups. It was estimated that the proportion of the population living in absolute poverty - around 35 to 40 per cent in 1990 - would have reached 47 per cent in the year 2000, if nothing was done to change things. Young people and women were most likely to be affected. The price of poverty was illiteracy and ignorance, unemployment due largely to a lack of qualifications, and disease, including malnutrition, which led to a high level of infant mortality.

In Africa, life expectancy was 52 years for men and 56 for women, with an infant mortality rate of 89 per thousand in 1993. In countries like Chad, life expectancy dropped to 47.7 years.

Despite the academic explosion of the previous thirty years, the African continent still lagged far behind the rest of the world with respect to education and training. More than 50 per cent of the adult population were illiterate. The enrolment rate was among the lowest in the world, while the unitary cost of providing that schooling was among the highest because of repeaters and drop-outs. Higher education was the preserve of privileged families, owing to its prohibitive cost.

As a result of their under-equipment (lack of classrooms and laboratories, and also proper administrators and teaching staff), education and training institutions were failing to meet the needs of countries for technicians, engineers, doctors and scientists, in terms of both quantity and quality. Professionals trained abroad did not return to their countries because of the poor working conditions.

The environmental challenge, said Dr Miaro, was the over-exploitation of natural resources by ever larger populations. The situation in Chad, a country with areas of savannah, as well as its deserts and Sahel, and formerly rich in fauna (like Kenya) and plant species which were now disappearing, mirrored that in many other countries of the world and on the African continent. The destruction of the plant cover and micro-organisms, combined with drought, was resulting in the reduction of soil fertility and reducing agricultural yields.

Thus began the vicious circle of economic problems - low incomes, lack of purchasing power - which led to absolute poverty for some (the peoples of the South, two thirds of the world's population), while others still enjoyed overabundance (one third of the world's population). But, asked Dr Miaro, for how much longer?

There was a need, he said, for a 'fresh vision', and that was set out in the second and third parts of the Report Caring for the Future. There was also a need to think about how the dream could be transformed into reality, and that was explored in the fourth part of the document.

Dr Miaro then commented on the Report's recommendations, which he summarized as follows:

1/ Greater security for a better world, combining personal security with economic, social, ecological and military security.

The Commission recommended in that context the demilitarization of the world in order to achieve lasting peace. It urged that efforts be made to augment the number of signatory States of the four treaties relevant to quality of life: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Commission recognized that those recommendations were somewhat general and that measurable indicators must be found. With regard to economic and social security, for example, each country would have 'to establish standards and determine thresholds' for unemployment, the acceptable number of refugees as a percentage of the total population, enrolment rates, and the accessibility of health services. A report would be published annually on the level of compliance, or non-compliance, with those standards. It would be relatively easy to identify and denounce those countries which did not respect them.

2/ The plant has its constraints: its carrying capacity.

This relates to agriculture and its capacity to feed humanity, and to natural resources: water, forests and renewable energy sources (solar and thermal technology, etc.).

Dr Miaro said that a new vision was needed with respect to the production and consumption of goods and services, involving the choice of 'clean' technologies and energy sources. While the countries of the South were making efforts to limit the number of births, the countries of the North must scale down their lifestyle (number of cars and luxury goods produced from the raw materials of the countries of the South). That was one of the contributions they could make to the enhancement of the quality of life for everyone. Studies must be undertaken to establish acceptable levels of consumption.

Methods of managing and preserving the natural resources of aquatic and forest ecosystems should be listed in inventories and replicated in the countries of the South.

3/ Social policy must be one of the State's main responsibilities

A good social policy (employment, education, health care, etc.) could change mentalities and help to solve demographic problems. Educating women was a powerful means of reducing the birth rate and infant mortality.

4/ Mobilizing all of humankind for a new social contract

Dr Miaro said he thought that recommendation too general. It was necessary to go into more detail, to define the conditions of a genuine democracy. Popular participation was what mattered. It was also vital to ensure the separation of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. 'Since ignorant, illiterate citizens cannot know their individual rights and duties, there must be basic education for all.'

5/ Finding the resources to implement the new political, economic, social and ecological order

Dr Miaro asked how the rich could be made to understand that official development assistance (ODA) was not gratuitous charity, but a means of ensuring their own security and survival. New funding mechanisms must reflect the fact that the countries of the South possessed the raw materials, and the countries of the North the scientific and technological know-how. Negotiations like those in Rio in 1992 would perhaps enable common ground to emerge. It was imperative that it did!

Ms Aminata Traoré, Minister for Culture and Development of Mali and a member of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, closed the session by calling on the participants to fight for the survival of Africa and to build a new world, even if they had doubts as to the benefits of independence and democracy, and to unite their efforts.



CONTENTS OF THE EXCHANGES IN WORKING GROUPS

1. Combating exclusion

Referring to guiding principles and recommendations in the Caring for the Future Report, the working groups began by addressing the topic of exclusion.

One group held that the main reason why so many people cannot today meet their basic needs and at the same time retain their dignity is economic in origin. The destitution affecting an increasingly broad swathe of the population, including many women, is so serious that the core concern of all policies to abolish exclusion should be to narrow the income gap.

Social policy should be central to State responsibilities.

Who is responsible for this state of affairs? Participants blamed the increasingly significant role played by markets, which are now the main instrument of economic organization. They believed that market mechanisms, which lack public accountability, have emerged and become powerful because of the declining influence of national governments. The time thus seems ripe to encourage the come-back of the state. The state must, however, be prepared to undergo a number of changes, the most crucial of which is to make social policy a core concern. The main goal of a new policy must be sustainable improvement of quality of life.

Participants regarded this caring state as quite distinct from the welfare state. It would have to transfer some of its functions to decentralized autonomous bodies such as regions and local authorities. This local government system will make sense only if economic development is part of its mandate and if it contributes substantially to raising citizens' living standards. In Senegal, the regions have been given more responsibility for managing their own development. Since experience has shown that economic indicators are unreliable yardsticks of quality of life, it is essential to give added muscle to analysis and assessment capacities. This is especially important for those responsible for managing development after the introduction of regionalization. It is also important for supervisory staff to be trained in the skills they need to carry out their responsibilities.

Any new social contract must be based on empowerment of the people and a commitment by everyone, local representatives and civil society, to take vigorous action to combat exclusion and bring about a sustainable improvement in quality of life. This does not mean that the state should relinquish its regulatory duties and its other responsibilities; part of its new role will be to act as a catalyst.

Participants also expressed the opinion that Africa could not continue to be split up into a number of mini-states. It was, they felt, high time that Africa embarked on a movement of integration, as Europe is doing, so as to avoid geopolitical exclusion.

Another group made the point that study of exclusion shows the cumulative effect of poverty, and the psychological process whereby individuals cut themselves off from society. Exclusion is, in essence, a lack of belonging and of access to culture. The problem is found in the North as well as in the South, although the criteria for identifying exclusion are different. Even in Africa the status of young people, the elderly and people without paid employment needs to be reappraised: are they not useful to the community? The values of personal worth and dignity should be reinstated.

Analysis needs to encompass not only exclusion itself, but also the crisis in the institutions that should deal with it. The necessary preconditions are: political will, a strong state and citizens who insist upon accountability.

Participants also maintained that priority should be given to social factors. Two trends are today inimical to this approach. The first concerns security, which is always presented in military terms as the security necessary for the state, so that the security of individuals is often overlooked. The second is that technical and economic ministries enjoy higher prestige than ministries of education, health and culture.

If social factors are to be given priority, quality of life must be defined in relation to the rights of the person. A simultaneous national and international approach will be required to set targets with quantified indicators and to draw up schedules. An audit will have to be made, not by the government but by an ombudsman or a member of civil society.

In the North there is a quality-of-life problem; in the South the focus is on standard of living.

It is something new in the African context to discuss quality of life as a right. Participants considered questions like 'What can the South contribute? What is meant by exclusion? What indicators can be used to identify exclusion? What is the value of the aggregate indicators we use to measure economic performance? What, for example, is the significance of per capita income?' and concluded that in the North there is a quality-of-life problem, whereas in the South the focus is on standard of living.

Another group, whose members came from a wide variety of backgrounds ranging from scientific research to regional administration, felt that all forms of exclusion are a handicap to human fulfilment, and that any emancipation process should begin and end with human beings. Among the scourges of late twentieth century humanity, exclusion is the basis of the entire system of inequality. Even if exclusion has some characteristics specific to industrialized countries and others that are found in developing countries, it does possess constant features that transcend the disparities affecting the countries and regions of the world.

Loss of the essential bearings which help to define what it means to be a human being inevitably leads to exclusion.

Combating exclusion - whether it divides individuals into haves and have-nots, regions into North and South, countries into the rich and the underdeveloped or marginalized, and people into men who are privileged because they alone wield power and women who are discriminated against - involves promoting a type of development which necessarily includes an unflinching concern for solidarity.

This kind of development is sustainable by definition; it implies a recognition of the fundamental human rights without which complete self-fulfilment is impossible. People should be given the resources to play an active, percipient role in building their lives, here and now, via well-assimilated education and information.

Development also entails the preservation of the cultural environment, i.e. fully understanding, and thus productively assimilating, cultural habits and traditions, and at the same time preserving the natural environment without which no fruitful action is possible.

This type of development is thus diametrically opposed to development as defined in narrow economic terms whose criteria are grounded in statistical indicators and concepts of economic or financial cost-effectiveness, and whose by-products are, in the final analysis, systems built on selfishness.

The longstanding or commendable cultural values which underpin development thus centre on solidarity and a new spirituality which regards human beings as the centre of all value-systems.

Loss of the essential bearings which help to define what it means to be a human being inevitably leads to exclusion. The practice of solidarity is a pragmatic response in the battle against exclusion, which covers the situation in which individuals find themselves when the social rules guiding their conduct and aspirations lose their force.

In addition to the paradigm of solidarity there is that of hospitality which, in its original sense as used by the Romans, signifies a covenant or contract, the essence of which is a link ruling out any idea of exclusion between the contracting parties. Hospitality thus subsumes the idea of sharing, which is the very essence of solidarity.

In order to define and clarify the concept of exclusion, several groups identified two levels at which marginalization - i.e. the isolation of groups of different sizes from centres of decision-making - takes place: at world level, where Africa is marginalized in the geostrategic and geopolitical arena by strategic positionings and the balance of power, and on the economic plane by the ramifications of multinationals; and within societies where some groups, e.g. children, the elderly, the physically and mentally disabled, lower castes and the rural and peri-urban masses, are the victims of internal exclusion.

The fight against exclusion requires society to go beyond stopgap measures and to reinvent itself.

What are the reasons for exclusion? Participants pointed to the weakening of the family ties upon which African society is built; the imposition of new modes of life and thought and of political, economic and cultural organization leading to the constitution of nuclear families and to individualism; poverty and urbanization; cronyism and the centralization of power as survivals of the colonial legacy; traditional sociological inertia reflected in a low rate of school enrolment, and lack of access to credit and employment.

The fight against exclusion requires society to go beyond stopgap measures and to reinvent itself. It will be necessary to:

- implement an integrated rural and urban development policy;
- recast income distribution, returning to solidarity, 'the cement of pre-colonial society';
- retain the best of traditional values in order to counter new, exclusion-engendering forms of civilization;
- strengthen family ties;
- reinforce social bonds;
- give new meaning to democracy;
- create a partnership where men play a role in the improvement of women's status in decision-making bodies;
- support and train parents in order to improve their children's education and
- be responsible for women's access to primary and higher education.

Combating exclusion, a final group remarked, boils down to combating the most shocking and repellent form of poverty - i.e. the inability to possess an income sufficient to enjoy an acceptable level of quality of life - and its aggravating, overlapping offshoots, which are: undernourishment and malnutrition, an inability to exercise one's right to education, unemployment, underemployment, degrading work, and lack of access to health care. The 'Caring for the Future' Report identifies the causes of poverty as the economic system's inability to react to the demographic changes occurring in different parts of the world. It notes in passing the extreme precariousness of the living conditions of wide layers of the population, i.e. women, the elderly and young people, because they are marginalized. Finally, it identifies ways of combating exclusion, especially by narrowing the income gap and reaffirming and effectively applying economic and social rights, which call for the establishment of suitable development strategies.

Poverty is African, African poverty is rural, and women are the main victims of rural poverty.

The group examined the issue of exclusion, noting the prevalence of large-scale inequalities at world level. The North is prosperous, while the South is getting poorer. Also noted was the increase in poverty at world, national and local level. Looking at the evidence of poverty within nations, it is possible

to go along with Galbraith and say that in the rich countries there is a minority of poor people who are a major concern for the rich majority and that, contrariwise, in the poor countries, there are a majority of poor people who are of little concern for the rich minority. A third observation can be summed up as follows: poverty is African, African poverty is rural and women are the main victims of rural poverty.

The causes and consequences of poverty are linked to economic mechanisms, even if the goals of those mechanisms are not to create poverty and if it is also accepted that growth cannot in itself solve the problems of exclusion. The main observable consequence is unequal access to resources.

Be that as it may, societies where there is exclusion are implosive societies which function like volcanoes. Action to combat exclusion is becoming essential, especially since it is a way of helping to preserve security.

The group identified three ways of combating exclusion:

- developing solidarity networks and social welfare safety nets, although these measures should be considered as palliatives;
- implementing economic and social policies adapted to their context, with a view to building 'a society which is kinder to the poor and more exacting towards the rich';
- starting from socio-cultural parameters when drawing up development strategies and discarding a naive belief in market ideology

2. Access to education for all

One group made the point that education, as the key to social change, ought to play an important strategic role in the economic and social development of young nations. In a world dominated by globalization, where technology is the focus of all human activity, education remains an investment that encourages economic growth and the modernization of demographic behaviour patterns.

School systems are underperforming.

After the African countries had achieved independence, their school systems underwent considerable expansion, which was, however, accompanied by a decline in the quality of teaching. Repetition and dropout rates indicate that school systems are underperforming.

Although educational systems were ailing before structural adjustment programmes were introduced, it must be said that stabilization and adjustment programmes have slowed down educational expansion through their impact on budgetary resources and costs.

What education policy should be applied in the present context of acute crisis?

The Report considers education to be a key factor in all aspects of quality of life, and if its rationale is closely followed it will make sense to combat poverty and exclusion by focusing on the educational services which have an influence on poverty. i.e.

basic education and adult literacy work. In the context of the informal economy, which is so important in African countries, this would mean linking schooling to the training of small producers.

Furthermore, in order to satisfy the right to education for all, the African countries must find short-cuts which will enable them to keep up with processes of historical change by making massive use of educational technology, especially information technology. Like all outside resources, however, technology transfer can do no more than complement national efforts.

Traditional education must be enhanced and dovetailed with formal education.


Participants in another group unanimously felt that education stimulates development, whether it is the inherited formal education that is essential at the present stage or the traditional education that should be enhanced and dovetailed with formal education. Implicit in a joint intellectual acceptance of them is the need for human and material resources of adequate quality and quantity. Education for all also means that a solution must be found to the problem of poverty and its eradication. In this context, the African countries must be aware of one major circumstance: that they are lagging behind. The education deficit must be absorbed and people must be taught information and communication techniques in the context of globalization and its exigencies.

Access to education for all entails:

- making education a priority;
- treating it as a cost-effective sector, conducive to development;
- involving all the parties concerned and analysing the experiments in decentralization and the transfer of skills in this field, which does not signify a hands-off approach by the state;
- analysing the goals assigned to education, its forms and its fundamental content so as to improve quality of life;
- promoting excellence and encouraging the emergence of élites by giving everyone an equal opportunity right from the start;
- discouraging exclusion arising from the association of schooling with favouritism;
- enhancing the status of schools and teaching by making them more attractive in the fullest sense.
- ensuring that all levels, from pre-school education to university, perform their basic roles, independent of outside pressures. This means making education everybody's business and providing for school and university mapping that dovetails national and regional potential.

Finally, this group noted that access to education for all is a factor in development which helps to create, develop and consolidate a spirit of citizenship, with people prepared to shoulder their responsibilities in the face of the challenges of sustainable development, i.e. an ethic of caring for others born of a new sense of awareness and responsibility concerning all aspects of the cultural and natural environment. 'Education for all leads to the emergence of a new human being.'

Another group echoed what came out of the other groups, thus underlining the importance of these topics. It, too, felt that top priority should be given to women's and girls' access to education, as a support for the education of future generations. Schooling for girls should be promoted, the group remarked, and an economic and political elite of women should be trained to prevent their exclusion.

 Education is to encourage individual responsibility within society and responsibility for society.

This group also returned to the topic of the (dis)harmony between formal education and the socio-cultural values of the community: 'socio-familial' education with responsibility for children being shouldered first by the family, then by the wider group, which would provide back-up for formal education so as to 'culturally re-arm' members of society 'to cope with aggression from outside'. In tandem with this, the group suggested redefining the state's responsibility for a better geographical distribution of educational institutions.

A new idea emerged, with education being regarded by the group less as a springboard to employment and more as a way of encouraging individual responsibility in society and responsibility for society.

To sum up, this group saw a twofold challenge:

- approaching education in its entirety so as to piece together its different forms - spiritual, moral, civic, cultural and functional;
- absorbing the education and literacy deficit in the short term by giving it priority status.

Another group focused on the problem of educational funding.


Despite its historic advance in setting up a modern educational system, Senegal today has the worst education indicators of the sub-Saharan countries. The gross rate of primary school enrolment is only 58 per cent (as opposed to 70 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole) and the adult literacy rate is only 27 per cent (as opposed to 49 per cent). And yet Senegal currently devotes 27 per cent of government expenditure to education, almost twice the average of the sub-Saharan African countries (World Bank, 1995).

In Senegal, the problem of educational funding has arisen against a background of increasingly tight constraints and growing needs.

The constraints stem from the strong demographic pressure; the high level of public expenditure earmarked for education at a time when outside resources are becoming scarce; competition, in which educational funding is losing out in relation to other goals such as productive investment and nutrition; unit education costs which have become excessively high; increasing poverty, which obliges people to use more and more of their resources to meet their basic needs to the detriment of longterm needs such as education.

And yet educational needs are huge and continually growing. They stem from the development of human capital as a pre-condition for social progress and economic growth; the fight against illiteracy as a pre-condition for improvement of individual and collective welfare; and the growing demand for education as a result of demographic growth.

The group believed that educational strategies and policies must be reviewed against this background of constraints and needs in order to improve the educational situation, especially in Africa. For there is some room for manoeuvre to bring about improvements.

 Schools must become places where pupils learn knowledge, know-how and values.

To meet the challenges, policies need to be re-appraised in the following areas:

- the share of the public budget devoted to education;
- distribution of public funds between educational levels so as to provide maximum help for children aged 7 to 13;
- a reduction of unit costs, especially for building and equipment.

This group also maintained that the central problem was the nature and quality of educational content. Leaving aside the financial aspect, the whole system needed to be re-appraised, from primary schooling upwards.

Schools must become places where pupils acquire knowledge, know-how and values.

3. Prioritizing population policy and health care

This topic gave rise to lively discussion during which some of the Report's recommendations were queried.

One group recognized the importance of mental and physical health for quality of life and examined the Commission's recommendations. According to this group they are based on four principles.

Speakers approved the call for:

- a balance being struck between modern medicine and traditional or alternative therapies.

They also approved the need to:

- adopt a health system (care and prevention) giving equal weight to outpatient medicine and hospital care, which must be materially and financially accessible to all, so as to prevent the development of a two-tier system.

In other recommendations concerning

- prevention and
 - the distinctive nature of women's needs
- the group deplored the fact that pediatric and geriatric problems were neglected.

The group approved the non-Malthusian view of the population issue and insisted that population policies drawn up by governments should be given wide publicity so as to stimulate discussion of their different components. Coercive population policies such as those found in some countries were, however, unacceptable, since they constituted a violation of human rights. A sound population policy should provide women with the means of controlling their fertility more effectively. Women must be free to make their own decisions about procreation.

To give life is a fundamental right,
and the right to life must also be inviolable.

To give life is a universally recognized fundamental right which has been incorporated into what are known as social rights; the right to life must also be inviolable. For this reason, on the basis of philosophical and religious arguments, the group considered that the decriminalization of abortion was unacceptable. In the African countries where, the group said, religious feeling is very strong, talk of abortion legislation may seem inappropriate, since abortion is considered a criminal act. A being, even in the embryonic state, has the right to life, just as people have the right to procreate.

However, the group agreed with the Report that the best way to reduce the incidence of abortion is to adopt a sound family planning policy whereby abortion ceases to be used as a method of contraception. Those who are against the legalization of abortion demand on the grounds of quality of life that reception centres be set up for children born of unwanted pregnancies.

The group went on to say that health has other aspects, in addition to those linked to motherhood. The environmental dimension, which is a relatively crucial aspect of quality of life, must also be taken into account. In this context, the group deplored the deterioration in air quality in Africa following the increase in numbers of diesel vehicles, which may soon cause serious public health problems. 'We feel that the concept of solidarity should operate here and that the Third World should not be used as a cheap dustbin for increasing industrial pollution.'

During a meeting to pool ideas, Mme. Monique Bégin, former Canadian Minister of National Health and Welfare, stressed that women's right to health included the right to be treated within the health system. She recalled that half a million women die each year as a result of illegal abortions carried out outside the health system. Some abortions, however, should and may occur.

The group proposed a policy of partnership with local authorities so that health programmes could be adapted to local situations and be at the service of all.

They also hoped that international financial institutions and donor countries would not attempt to reduce health expenditure under structural adjustment programmes.

Another group took as an example the population policy in operation in Senegal since 1988. It was designed to take account of all the country's sensibilities, especially religious ones. That was why the concept of a 'lowering of fertility' was preferred to

that of 'birth control'. The idea of control may offend people's sensibilities and nullify efforts being made, in many cases by the groups most closely concerned, especially women, who are beginning to take real responsibility. Surveys and assessments carried out over the last few years record significant downturns in the overall fertility index, which has fallen from an average of 7 children per woman of child-bearing age in 1976 to 6.1 in 1994. In the same period, the age of first marriage rose considerably. The fact remains, however, that the rate of contraceptive use is persistently low, mainly for economic reasons: women cannot always afford the products on offer. Economic factors are compounded by others such as inadequate education, information and communication. There is a regrettably low level of awareness among men and women, particularly in rural areas. The group considered the results of the population policy introduced in Senegal to be definitely encouraging.

Although there had been some successes in the field of primary health care, the group emphasized its inadequacies in the face of the challenges involved, whose magnitude depends on whether their environment is urban or rural and on the appearance of new diseases such as AIDS and the devastating effects of malaria.

In Senegal, the recent introduction
of decentralization brings the state
closer to the population.

Discussion of population and health issues involves analysing the impact of policies drawn up to tackle them. These issues clearly call for large-scale material and human resources, as well as institutional measures. The recent introduction of decentralization brings the state closer to the population, bearing in mind their reciprocal responsibilities.

A major attempt to decentralize population policy has been launched, with the setting up of co-ordination and monitoring structures at national level (National Committee for Population and Human Resources) and at regional level (Regional Committee for Population and Human Resources). The state needs ongoing indicators so that it can appraise the impact of its population policy, closely harnessing it to the objectives it has set and matching resources to the growth and composition of population in housing areas.

A consistent, well-organized population policy must also take account of the information, education and communication strategies that will need to be implemented in order to combat emergent diseases such as AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, cholera and tuberculosis, all of which are aggravated by poverty and exclusion.

Everyone in this group was alert to the interdependence of the issues of population and the environment as a basis for improved management of local and planetary resources. A number of factors adversely affect population distribution: migration due to drought and natural disasters, excessive concentration of population in seemingly more hospitable areas and its impact on public health, exclusion and increasingly insecure living conditions, etc. Close attention must also be paid to the erosion of natural resources in order to prevent natural

balances from being upset as a result of population pressure. In practical terms, living conditions must be improved and the effects of rampant urbanization leading to overcrowding must be counteracted.

In the field of health, efforts must be made to narrow the gap between the aims of primary health care and the medical facilities and staff involved, with a view to meeting the health care needs of populations, especially in rural areas. WHO norms on distances between people and well-equipped medical centres with qualified staff must be respected.

Citizens should be actively and positively involved in the management of medical centres and in the selection of medicines available in them. The range of medicines should be expanded and diversified and the very needy should pay less for them. These measures at grassroots level should be accompanied by more efficient management, using new and cheaper technologies which are more cost-effective and accessible, e.g. solar energy in areas ill-equipped with electricity.



Who benefits from our health policies? Much is at stake economically and financially, so we must pull ourselves together, decolonize our minds, enhance the status of our products and our skills, think about social issues and fix our priorities.

Another group examined the problem of the pharmacopeia. According to its members, Africa possesses knowledge and know-how unacknowledged by laboratories. 'Who benefits from our health policies?' 'Much is at stake economically and financially, so we must pull ourselves together, decolonize our minds, enhance the status of our products and fix our priorities.' They maintained that the political will exists to take up this challenge at the national level and at the African regional level. In the field of the pharmacopeia, it is clearly impossible, for economic reasons, to make the transition from research to its application in the form of products marketable at local level, but the problem could doubtless be solved at regional level and this, of course, raises the issue of African integration. Furthermore, 'we should not impose on ourselves a health system that excludes a majority of the people.'

This group also made the connection between health and environment and education. It felt that the degradation of our cities, which have become dumping grounds, and the extreme fragility of the administrative structures responsible for health and safety break with a tradition of preventive action dating from colonial times. Part of the problem today is the sociological composition of neighbourhoods. These are places where solidarity should prevail, but they are occupied by people who no longer have any sense of belonging or identification with the locality. The fact that only the public authorities do anything about these areas has led to a situation in which people feel no sense of responsibility for them. New forms of solidarity must be created to cope with this problem.

The group also showed awareness of developments in population policy. They felt that procreation was a right linked to sexuality, fertility and control of one's body. They remembered

the strong reactions triggered by the Cairo conference, especially in fundamentalist circles. A debate is under way about the new approach to this question, which seeks to take account of its social, human and political aspects. Health problems include those linked to motherhood, and this forms part of human rights. Society must have a responsible attitude towards these new challenges, the group concluded, instead of taking refuge in out-of-date positions.

Another group was critical of the Report. Participants first agreed that it is essential for health policies to form part of a global perspective. In this light, the Report's recommendations develop guiding principles, and lay down an institutional framework and strategic thrusts. Finally, the Report proposed various mechanisms and actions as being likely to make significant improvements to the health of the population, especially certain categories, mainly women and adolescents.

The Report opts for 'free choice' as one guiding principle. The right to procreate is seen as a fundamental and non-negotiable individual right, and abortion is rejected as an instrument in a policy to control demographic growth. Consequently, the Report was seen to contain support for voluntary family planning, resulting as far as possible from a consensus. The Report advocated broad co-ordination of institutional structures dealing with health, as defined in the resolutions contained in the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 and the Ottawa Charter of 1986.

All countries in the international community should launch research programmes into new and re-emergent diseases. The main aims would be to:

- set up and encourage basic care systems using the best available therapies, both traditional and new;
- offer citizens care and prevention services free from constraints arising from their social costs, created, for example, by adjustment policies;
- encourage outpatient facilities;
- increase citizen involvement by giving grassroots communities responsibilities and adequate funding;
- promote a patient-centred medical culture.

The Group underlined the 'approximate' nature of some translations in the Report. For example, the concepts of reproductive health and primary health care had been chosen in preference to those of procreation and basic care. Group members wondered why.

The group considered that the Report was "ambiguous" as to whether or not it opted for a pro-natalist policy. Some members felt that the Report's attitude in this context was not always clearly stated.



The concept of the couple is not prominent enough in the Report.

The concept of the couple was not prominent enough in the Report, although it should be central to choices about family size.

The group felt that population policy and health policy were not differentiated clearly enough. They said that emphasis was mainly laid on the health issues which are subsumed under population policy. They also felt that in general the Report's recommendations were somewhat vague at the operational level 'perhaps because of the sensitive nature of the issue of motherhood', seen mainly from the point of view of its relations with socio-economic and socio-cultural realities.

That said, the group urged that each country should adopt a population policy, as the most suitable framework for incorporating the population variable into economic and social development strategies. Priority should be given to adapting it to the legislative context. To be successful, population policy needs to take account of socio-cultural conditions in the countries involved and conform with their legislation.

A final group approved the relevance of the Commission's approach. Population cannot be reduced to its (quantitative) demographic dimension alone. It must focus on the individual's quest for decent living conditions as a human being (qualitative dimension).

Its approval notwithstanding, the group expressed surprise at the persistence of an alarmist demographic approach and of Western models which project their own anxieties and failures on to the Third World.

After a discussion, the group opined that the most important points had been taken into account by the Commission, i.e.:

- the urban habitat, and the country-town interface marked by 'rurbanization' (rural inroads into towns and cities) and suburbanization (towns and cities encroaching on the countryside) leading to an expansion of urban exclusion, the formation of peri-urban slums and a shrinkage of the most fertile farming areas;
- accessibility of education and health infrastructures and services as they face a number of constraints: inefficiency of drinking water networks; lack of reception capacity; imbalance of infrastructure distribution; religious and social inertia; inadequate funding;
- States that are inadequate, oppressive or absent, so that their role is transferred, at a time of liberalism, to the market;
- access to housing which is embroiled in problems of cost, and the settlement of needy populations relegated to insalubrious areas, which are the only parts of the city where they do not risk eviction (the outskirts and urban areas where building is not allowed);
- pollution because of inefficient sanitation, insalubrity, and growing transport needs.

Let us combat rural inertia and conservatism by the widespread use of well-known people as spokespersons for new ideas.

What does this group regard as appropriate guidelines for an effective population policy?

- It would like to see a policy of comprehensive access to basic facilities and services, especially via democratic information about public health and motherhood-linked health matters (fertility/sterility, pregnancy, AIDS, neo-natal care) backed up by appropriate and plentiful teaching aids. Speakers also wanted facilities for family health management by women to be reinforced and sound traditional knowledge and practice to be taken into account and interwoven with modern knowledge and methods via research. Access to medicines, especially generic medicines, should be facilitated. Rural inertia and conservatism could be combated by using well-known personalities as spokespersons for new ideas.

Land-use policies conducive to a better distribution of people and activities should be adopted and implemented in order to improve accessibility to basic infrastructures and to reverse the current trend, stabilizing populations on their land.

Participation in public hygiene was called for in order to bring operating costs down to manageable levels for the people involved, in this case the neediest members of society.

The state should play a caring role as the keystone of solidarity, drawing up endogenous population and land-use planning policies, rationally managing available natural resources for the benefit of all, channelling aid from funding sources and NGOs on the basis of these policy lines, and regulating the market.

4. Improving security

One group began by noting the existence of a social issue, Poverty does not simply reflect a lack of material objects or of access to certain services, it is also linked to a person's place in society. Today a whole generation no longer feels secure.

The highlighting of this social issue enabled the group to consider a conceptual approach to security and its absence, Security was perceived as a need linked to a respect for republican values. It was also perceived as the protection of individuals in their national and social dimensions.

States are failing to perform one of their essential functions, bringing about and guaranteeing security. The growing number of security firms and young people's neighbourhood watch organizations reflect a feeling of insecurity. Domestic insecurity is another phenomenon. Women are consuming more and more antidepressants. There are many instances of conjugal violence. The group also noted the existence of mental insecurity, in many cases linked to intolerance.

The objective impossibility of making plans for a future about which little thought has been given makes young people feel insecure.

Young people are most affected by insecurity. The absence of a blueprint for young people's role in society is a fundamental issue. The objective impossibility of making plans for a future to

which little thought has been given makes young people feel insecure, and this leads them to close their eyes to reality and take an easy trip to an artificial paradise.

Drugs should be seen as a dose of insecurity injected into our societies and held there, but also as a form of insecurity in the very core and purpose of our societies, i.e. in the values they teach. People who make their living from drugs subvert our moral and social values and the codes we live by.

The world context was mentioned in this group, which showed how far economic and ideological factors dominate the transfer and export of the seeds of tension to the Third World. The process of degradation of our planet began long ago. The use of satellites has probably increased awareness of the state of the planet. People's awareness is limited to the micro-social level and the cumulative, long-term effect is discounted. Remedial action should be taken. This will require a sense of responsibility, international relations based on equity and sound information about duties as well as rights.

The new meaning of security which embodies the traditional concept but also incorporates other ideas such as economic security, social security, ecological security and nutritional security should become a core concern of the Security Council.

Another group looked closely at different lines of approach and suggestions in the Report and approved them.

This group also regarded the cornerstone of quality of life as security in the broad sense used in the Report, which transcends its traditional military state-centred content. Security must be given a more human, more humanist, person-centred dimension. It is hard to accept that a 'safe', not to say over-armed, state contains a large number of people who live in structural insecurity owing to their poverty and exclusion from community services.

This new meaning of security, which embodies the traditional concept but also incorporates other ideas like economic security, social security, environmental security and nutritional security, must be codified and become a core concern of the Security Council, the only United Nations body whose decisions apply to everyone. The group therefore unreservedly supported the Commission's recommendation that the Security Council be enabled to address threats to the socio-economic security of humankind.

Following the example of the Commission, the group asked that a major effort be mounted to extend the scope by the year 2000 of the four great existing treaties embodying a range of rights relevant to the quality of life. The group also approved the Report's recommendation that an optional protocol of ICESCR be speedily completed to enable complaints to be lodged by individuals and groups.

The working group also approved the Commission's efforts to win acceptance for criteria enabling quality of life to be assessed otherwise than on the basis of Gross National Product (GNP).

GNP, which is simply the total of the goods and services produced by a nation, is wrongly considered to be an efficient indicator of well-being and the best way of expressing quality of life and, consequently, as the most accurate basis for comparison with other nations.

The experts agree that GNP is an imperfect signpost for action, since it maintains a worrisome silence about the sustainability or otherwise of the well-being that it is supposed to measure, and since the international comparisons it facilitates do not reflect relative levels of quality of life.

A big step in the right direction would be the adoption of a revised system of national accounting to be handled by a specialized technical committee responsible, inter alia, for assessing the future cost of damage done to the environment today.

Another group also looked closely at the Report's recommendations. This group felt that greater security for a better world is a central issue. Firstly, this ties in with the need to strike a balance between civil and political rights and economic and social rights. Secondly, it links up with topics already tackled, especially that of exclusion. Objectively speaking, a situation of insecurity is tantamount to exclusion. This brings us back to the topics of health and education. Exclusion exists when there is no access to education and health care.

Caring for the Future considers that security transcends the traditional concept of national sovereignty and military power and embodies a broader vision encompassing all aspects of individual and collective human security. The Report appeals for a reduction in military expenditure and for the consequent savings to be used to improve people's material living conditions, especially in vital areas and sub-areas such as access to education and clean drinking water: in short, to achieve a sustainable improvement in quality of life.

The group also underlined the Report's recommendation that, between now and the year 2000, the scope of the treaties and conventions with direct implications for life improvement should be extended and applied: the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The group also noted that the Report emphasizes the need to create a firm partnership between states, NGOs and civil society in order to eradicate poverty and to promote equity, which is a central factor in quality of life. Support for the role of the State in this context was strongly expressed.

Security is the basis of quality of life, and insecurity leads to an implosion of societies.

The group approved all these points, its members accepting the relevance of earlier observations that security is the basis of quality of life, and insecurity leads to an implosion of societies.

However, specific aspects gave rise to heated discussion within the group.

This focused mainly on establishing the optimal parameters for the social order most conducive to security and economic and environmental stability. How, for example, should the contracts we individuals sign among ourselves or those signed between states be drafted and protected? And how can a state maintain the purchasing power of its farmers when the prices of produce are fixed elsewhere and fluctuate widely, or when the currency in which the produce is paid for fluctuates?

Also highlighted was the special case of the security of women in particular, but also of people in general, in relation to the rule of law. Women and children are the main victims of conflict and insecurity in developing countries.

The group considered that without social peace, politics and social and economic activity had no purpose and wished the establishment of the rule of law to be discussed in relation to the question of cutbacks - how deep should they go? - in military spending. In other words, are security costs themselves a source of security? How far are human beings capable of devising individual and collective self-regulatory mechanisms which provide optimal respect for the contracts they sign with one another?

Another group noted that security starts with family security. To preserve this, it is necessary to foster communication among family members (e.g. by appointing a pre-marriage counsellor to dispense modern and traditional knowledge) in order to maintain the cohesion and hence the security of the family.

At the national level, security implies acceptance of responsibility at different levels.

It is particularly important, especially in the informal economy and in rural areas, for responsibility for risks and accidents at work to be identified, anticipated and accepted by means of a mutual system. Security is linked to greater accessibility of infrastructures and basic services.

The quest for health security calls for analysis of the risks of environmental accidents and entails a better distribution of people and activities (concentrating industrial plant on the outskirts of cities). There must also be an improvement in the sanitary conditions of human settlements, whose deficiencies contribute to the proliferation of pathogenic vectors and epidemics.

In order to promote economic security, all forms of exclusion associated with poverty must be combated, especially in the urban environment (oppression, robbery and all other pernicious activities).

Nutritional security was regarded as a top priority by some members of the group. It can be ensured by developing available resources for the benefit of all and by efficient and balanced land use planning.

Promoting ethics as the exemplar for peoples and individuals, integrating the culture of peace into education, integrating security of peoples as a mainspring of political action.

At the planetary level, emphasis should be placed on total demilitarization as a way of ending all the internal conflicts which are today the main contributing factors to insecurity. The first stage of this process should be to cut back military budgets, to the advantage of health and education. In this context, the arms-manufacturing industrialized countries should contribute to world peace by reducing arms production and ceasing to fan the flames of conflict by arming belligerents.

Security should be considered in its totality. States should assume their responsibility for protection, and citizens should shoulder their responsibility within society. To think of others is to respect their right to life.

To do this, it is necessary at all levels to:

- promote ethics as the exemplar for peoples and individuals;
- integrate the culture of peace into education;
- take the security of populations as the basis for political action.

The last group noted the relevance of all the themes proposed for consideration, the fourth of which clearly expresses their common denominator, whose ultimate goal is quality of life. Security can be apprehended at different levels (local, regional, national and international).

With a view to economic and social development, security may be regarded in terms of security of the national and regional market, for essentially agricultural economies and in the context of more vigorous efforts to pursue the aim of African integration.

What needs to be done is to ensure the security of producers in relation to market fluctuation by setting prices, and in relation to climatic hazards and natural disasters by setting up joint information and protection facilities, especially at the regional level.

Standards of security must be devised for the rational management of natural resources, especially with a view to preserving the terrestrial and maritime environment, a form of ecological security within the framework of a new world economic order that preserves the planet and its resources and is a far cry from the law of rampant exploitation and the selfishness of economic systems better equipped technologically. This form of security is a safeguard against tendencies to set up cartels which export pollution to the poor countries on the pretext of defending and preserving their ecosystems.

At the national level, the security of property and people must be promoted by combating exclusion, lack of culture and poverty as factors or generators of insecurity. In order to achieve better quality of life it is also essential to provide security of employment and security in the workplace.

One step forward, and not the least important, is the emergence of democratic practice, mobilizing the necessary resources, and interaction with the state, expressing the common will of citizens who are aware of their rights and duties.

Security originates in a sound education policy which teaches the virtues of tolerance and acceptance of differences in a dialectical 'us-them' interaction which sees others as an alter

ego, a repository of universal values whose difference is a source of enrichment.

This security leads on to a new cultural order transcending 'otherness' and the narrow economic categories which have given rise to the marginalization of continents like Africa.

It militates against all forms of exclusion and helps to shape regenerated human beings, citizens of the world, rich in their necessary diversity.

Promotion of this kind of security is conducive to the cultivation by States of neighbourly relations on a permanent footing by removing the seeds of conflict between one other and within themselves. In this security-oriented process, international organizations such as the United Nations must shoulder new responsibilities for the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts.

Everyone has the right to a minimum of security, sufficient to guarantee them a life without fear of the future, and to enable them to approach the future in the most auspicious circumstances.

This approach to security should compel States to slow down the arms race, the production and sales of the increasingly sophisticated and terrible weapons that jeopardize the survival of humanity. It should compel them to redirect their arms budgets into development work and promote solidarity at planetary level.

This solidarity, of course, begins with the management of local conflicts: halting the deportation of populations and the massive population movements caused by war and its consequences, and putting a stop to violence in all its forms.

Inter-state security is a safeguard against the interference that aggravates conflicts.

Everyone has the right to a minimum of security, sufficient to guarantee them a life without fear of the future and to enable them to approach the future in the most auspicious circumstances.

5. Finding the necessary resources

The first four themes were discussed among the working groups. The fifth theme was raised in plenary, on the basis of a presentation by Mr Dragoljub Najman, adviser to the President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life.

How can the recommendations of the Independent Commission be funded?

Pursuant to its mandate, the Commission needed to have a holistic vision of several sectors - education, health, work, poverty, population - all of which are intrinsically linked. The question was raised as to how the Commission's proposals and, more broadly, those made by international conferences in recent years should be funded so that they could be applied and produce results in the field.

Mr Najman, who co-authored with Mr Hans d'Orville a study entitled 'Towards a New Multilateralism: Funding Global Priorities'², which was the basis of the chapter in *Caring for the Future* on mobilizing social resources, invited his audience to gauge the scale of the problem by considering some figures

- To implement the programmes recommended by the Rio Conference on the Environment, \$125 billion would be needed annually.³
- For the programmes recommended by the Cairo Conference on Population, \$17 billion would be needed over four years.
- WHO asks for \$5 billion per year for AIDS treatment, \$3 billion for prevention.
- UNESCO has costed the provision of schooling for all children at \$50 billion over 10 years.
- It would cost \$50 billion per year to provide drinking water for all.
- Official development assistance ought to stand at \$140 billion instead of the current \$55 billion.
- The restructuring of nuclear reactors would cost \$3 billion.
- United Nations peace-keeping operations, \$5-\$6 billion a year.
- Servicing developing country debt costs \$250 billion a year.

Other goals, such as primary health care and the eradication of poverty have not been costed.

It is clear that these amounts cannot be funded from state budgets alone.

In its report, the Independent Commission proposed ways of mobilizing international extrabudgetary resources, independent of the tax system of sovereign States, i.e. not funded by taxing the revenues of citizens, businesses, or trade, or by value added tax, etc.

Global objectives call for global funding. It is time to raise global funding and to tax globalization in order to achieve global management. Recently, when the economic crisis in South Korea began, global management spearheaded by the IMF was necessary, in view of the liquidities that had to be assembled.

In the last few years, many proposals have been made along these lines. Some of the most important of them include: taxes on air transport or on aviation fuel, on barrels of oil, on international telephone and postal communications, on international ocean transport, on the arms business, and on international commerce.

Taxing the use of the global commons such as the seabed has also been mooted, and the emission of pollutants.

² Published by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, Paris-New York, 1995, 72 pp.

³ It would take 33 years to count from 1 to 1 billion, at a rate of one figure per second.

Other ideas have been to set up an international lottery via the United Nations and special drawing rights for peace-keeping operations, by virtue of the IMF's capacity to create currency.

The question of imposing a charge on telecommunication frequencies has also been raised.

The goal in every case has been to create resources for funding international programmes adopted by representative bodies, e.g. on combating AIDS, education for all, the restructuring of nuclear power stations in Eastern Europe, nuclear disarmament and the environment.

All these programmes have been adopted by consensus by all governments and approved by a wide swathe of public opinion. What is missing is the wherewithal to implement them.

The Independent Commission has taken up a position within this great debate, by seeking measures that would be market-based and would make use of the immensely powerful lever of globalization. At the same time, it wants its recommendations to be put into effect.

Taxing international financial transactions also concerns the most important market, the international currency market (every 24 hours, \$1,200 billion are exchanged via computer terminals, and the equivalent of all goods, services and trade, everything we create on this planet - the world's GDP - transits through the 'currency market' in less than three weeks) as well as stocks, shares and government bonds - a market which is almost as important as currency dealing - the derivatives market and stock exchange transactions.

If these transactions were taxed at a rate of 0.01 per cent (0.1 per thousand), many of the world's needs, whose costs currently seem prohibitive, could be met.

To avoid horizontal slippages from one market to another, it is essential for a flat transaction charge to be levied uniformly, equally and universally; failing this, exchanges would be effected from countries that had not recognized these procedures.

The Brandt Report proposed the creation of financial liquidities to speed up development processes (\$200 billion of special drawing rights - SDRs). Considerable opposition to this proposal came from those who feared it would be inflationary. The criticism was that by creating money to invest in development, a financial flow is created. The Independent Commission does not want to create money.

Mr Najman believes that the most interesting aspect of the Independent Commission's proposals lies in the fact that no country, however powerful, can alone tax its own markets, and that taxing these markets subtracts nothing from the revenues of sovereign states since it does not take a penny of the taxes they gather by their own tax systems. It taxes a commodity that does not belong to states and that states alone cannot realize.

What we have here is a complete innovation that ties in with the phenomenon of globalization. Just as governments have virtually lost the power to control stock markets in their own countries because transactions take place 'in the air' and not on the Stock Exchange, in the same way they cannot levy appropriations, charges or taxes on markets, unless they do so simultaneously on all markets, in unison with all other countries.

The Commission thus proposes an international convention whose objective would be to produce a sufficient quantity of liquidities to fund programmes about which there is global agreement.

It is hoped that governments will take up this proposal. The Netherlands is already thinking of organizing a meeting of financial experts, mainly from industrialized countries, to look into new funding methods, including the taxation of markets proposed by the Independent Commission.

The debates which followed Mr Najman's presentation, which was warmly received, led the speaker to make a number of clarifications and comments, the main points being:

- The global communications system has given rise to what we call globalization. The Independent Commission proposes that we take globalization to its logical conclusion and draw practical conclusions from it: globalization must be equipped with a system for funding global objectives - objectives transcending the objectives of nation-States, which fund their own political, economic and social objectives. Who should finance global objectives? Those who operate within the globalized system and make their profits as a result of globalization.
- This concept goes hand in hand with the concept of the management of globalization. Receipts will have to be managed and rules for their use will have to be drawn up. Today's utopia will be tomorrow's reality, insofar as globalization is an irreversible phenomenon and is bound to develop.
- Several fears are emerging against the background of experiences of debt and the crisis in bilateral and multilateral development aid. If these funds are liberated, how will they be distributed? on what conditions?

Commission members did not intend to propose new conditions, but the Commission had done its utmost to find funds to tackle contemporary problems which we cannot solve because of lack of resources.⁴

- Should taxation be calculated according to responsibility, e.g. in the field of environment? The answer is no, since money that circulates has no nationality. The agents involved in these immense flows of currency are stockbrokers acting on behalf of persons and institutions which are elsewhere. Some economists think that one of the benefits of such a system of taxation might be to calm down the currency market and to restrict its erratic behaviour. Currency fluctuations are an obstacle to the development of international trade.

4 Bernard Kouchner, France's Secretary of State for Health and a member of the Independent Commission, recently spoke of this approach to taxation in the context of an 'International Therapeutic Solidarity Fund' that France proposed at the conference on AIDS in Africa held at Abidjan (7 December 1997): 'Three kinds of funding are foreseen. Firstly, via the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, associated with private funding and specialist foundations. Secondly, pharmaceutical multinationals, in ways that have yet to be defined. Thirdly, healthcare systems in the industrialized countries could shoulder some of the costs of therapy. And in line with this approach we shall eventually organize taxation of capital movements. Faced with the South, the rich should, in one way or another, pay for the poor.' (Le Monde, 9 December 1997).

- Collection would be international, but under the responsibility of each of the states on whose territory a specific market was located. It would also be necessary to set up an institution comprising representatives of states but also of parliaments and civil society, in order to open up management of the international financial system to the actors who take part in it and also to those who contribute to it. They would decide where to deposit this money with a view to the implementation of programmes that already exist and are ready to be executed, e.g. the Rio programmes (1992).
- The members of the Commission did not note any technically negative opinions in reactions to this proposal. Until an ongoing system existed that would ensure a large and permanent flow of resources, the Commission called for a drive to increase official development assistance which is today at a standstill or even being reduced, and for measures with immediate effect, such as cancellation of the poor countries' debt.
- The proposal takes account of the balance of power in the world. 'The existing balance of power should be the framework for development of a global approach and the resolution of a number of problems which are pivotal for the survival of persons and their quality of life, development and security. That does not solve all the deep-rooted - indeed essential - problems.'

Mr Najman concluded by saying to the Africans: 'If you are looking for an objective, a goal to tackle, I would say: find solutions and approaches that can mobilize support throughout the continent. It takes numbers to get things done. You will not count for much in this vast world, unless you speak with a single voice on behalf of the continent's 50 states. Look at the others, in Europe, in Latin America, in Asia: they have got together to survive. That is where you should be looking for your place in the planetary scenario: you must be active participants. All together or nothing.'



As the overview of their deliberations shows, the working groups seem to have given priority to commenting on the diagnosis made by the Commission in its report on the major challenges facing modern civilization. But their critical observations have not been systematically followed by proposals for 'concrete measures' to combat inequalities and wastage of all kinds of resources.

Professor Lat Soucabé Mbow noted in the various contributions made during the proceedings a convergence of views between the analyses contained in the report and participants' viewpoints regarding the chapters about the struggle against exclusion, access to education for all and enhancing human security. He felt that the Commission had helped to win recognition for the 'civil' aspects of this concept of security.

Reservations about subjects related to ethics or to cultural referents were noticeable during the discussions on population

and healthcare. These reservations were not new: during recent international conferences on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and Women (Beijing, 1995), opposition to the decriminalization of abortion and a polysemous understanding of the concept of the couple had already been expressed.

In his conclusion, Professor Mbow recalled that a focus for the participants' attention had undeniably been the new funding mechanism advocated for the implementation of the Report's recommendations and of other action programmes adopted by the international community during the decade. Its equitable nature and its capacity to provide the resources required to take action in the face of global problems were not in question. Doubts arose, however, about how ready the dominant nations would be to accept the heavy burdens that this mechanism involves, although their readiness would reflect their real concern for the less well-endowed.

TALKING TO THE PARTICIPANTS BEHIND THE SCENES

The coffee breaks and meal-times provided an opportunity for much informal discussion of the recommendations contained in the Report *Caring for the Future*. Each participant viewed the recommendations differently, depending on his or her skills, activities and priorities. The relevance of the Commission's recommendations was evaluated by talking to the participants individually, rather than by conducting a statistical exercise. The responses reflected the speaker and his or her environment and priorities. However, they also presented some constants, common features and points on which there was unanimous agreement.

One general observation: the participants commended all the Report's recommendations: 'all of them', said Professor Maguèye Kasse, who thought each one original and inspiring. They were an excellent complement to earlier initiatives, like those of the Brandt Commission. Professor Amadou Tidiane Ba, director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the University of Dakar, also found the recommendations helpful, although he singled out the one concerning funding mechanisms as the most original.

1. Recommendations

Improving security

The concept mentioned most frequently was improved security. 'It is an hymn to solidarity, the route to a better environment,' said Diène Dion, a professor at the Cheikh Anta Diop University. 'Ensuring security for all is a priority,' said Ms Kpegba-Dzotsi, a member of the National Assembly in Lomé, Togo, 'for security implies the eradication of poverty, the accessibility of health care, and education and literacy for all.'

Traditional leaders, such as Mamane Hassane, chief of a district of Niamey, supported the prioritization of improved security: they believed that individual and collective security could of themselves provide the solution to all the concerns of the Commission and the seminar participants. Many reiterated the same wish: 'Improved security for a more liveable world.'

Alexis Campal, a geographer and town planner, explained that the concept of security embraced all the concerns relating to human well-being, because collective and individual security were key factors in obtaining the desired quality of life.

'The first determinant of a life of quality continues to be an improved environment, and this is now recognized as the central objective of the sectoral policy of the Ministry of Town Planning and Living Conditions of Senegal.'

The future cannot be envisaged unless security is guaranteed.

'Improving security is, in my view, the most pertinent of the recommendations made in the Report,' said Cheikh Boncounta Gueye, Deputy Governor of Thiès, Senegal, 'in that it is the last piece of the jigsaw, being dependent on the availability of education and health care to all, universal self-sufficiency in

food, the vanquishing of all forms of exclusion, the recognition and application of democratic freedoms everywhere, respect for human dignity, the safeguarding of the physical integrity of the individual, and improved management of the environment.'

'In our humble opinion,' affirmed Governor Bocar Diallo, 'the most important recommendation is the one concerning security.' Food security in particular, with the ultimate aim of food self-sufficiency as part of a new world economic order, could, he said, citing the Report's key words, be the foundation, the basis, the platform for health, population and access to education for all, leading to the eventual elimination of all exclusion. The President of the Diourbel Regional Council, Cheikh Seck, agreed. He, too, felt that food security was the basis of all population policies. 'Education and health policies cannot be effective unless the problems relating to the security of the people themselves are addressed and their environment is made more secure.' He called for agriculture to be made more intensive with the help of subsidies, 'so that people can rediscover harmony'. For the Vice-President of the Saint-Louis Regional Council, Sambra Der Gaye, agriculture ought to provide the country's path to liberation: 'It is the only solution to our unemployment problem - since, as far as the exodus is concerned, the trend has been reversed, and we are experiencing a period characterized by urban, not rural, exodus, as in the valley of the River Senegal.' Food security and social security went hand in hand. 'It is essential,' said Aminata Wane, technical adviser at the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family in Dakar, 'to focus on food security, because of the repeated droughts, soil erosion and the low incomes of households, but also in order to provide for all aspects of social security, and political and military security.'

As regards military expenditure, several participants wanted it to be redirected towards the other, non-military aspects of security, because, as the Governor of Tambacounda, Saliou Rama Ka, said, 'tension caused by the lack of national and cultural integration is the chief cause of insecurity.'

Dr Be Rammaj Miaro II, representing Chad, 'one of the poorest countries in the world, the scene of civil wars and aggression by Libya since its independence', also wanted a reduction in military spending to benefit the social sector (education, health, housing conditions).

In order to advance towards the attainment of human security, it was necessary to redefine the bases of universal solidarity. Hence the importance, for Ousmane Thiaw, a socio-economist and director of the Municipal Sociocultural Complex of Derklé, of the recommendation in the Report concerning a new social contract. This emphasized the sovereignty of the people, who were both subjects and agents of the enhancement of the quality of life, but without excluding governments, which were to act as regulators of the initiatives undertaken to that end. Universal solidarity was necessary in that respect since it would prevent exclusion in every area (economic, social and cultural).

The constant evolution of society required a periodic rereading and adjustments equal to the new challenges which the global village must face, based on solidarity at both the local and the planetary levels. Ba Cheikh, a professor at the Cheikh Anta Diop University, had discovered in the Report 'a shift of outlook with respect to globalization and life on earth, based on the promotion of new ties of solidarity.' 'The qualitative must finally benefit from the quantitative,' he added. 'Humanity must be reconciled with its environment, and human beings must act together.' For some, like the Governor of Fatick, exclusion, the reverse of solidarity, was so worrying that it should be the focus of the discussions. He went so far as to add that all the themes of the Report could be related to exclusion. For Cheikh Seck, 'all forms of exclusion must be avoided at any price, since it affects the stability of our countries.' Chérif Diagne, head of the Thiès Regional Planning Service, believed that if the concept of work were broadened, as the Report suggested in one of its recommendations, a large majority of those who were excluded could easily be integrated into a framework within which they could make full use of all their skills.

To improve security and overcome exclusion, it was necessary to mobilize all the social forces within civil society (Bernadette Palle, executive secretary of GREFFA, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), including women. Aminata Diaw Cissé, a lecturer and member of the Senegalese Council of Women, called for the advancement of women and their empowerment. Women often made up more than 50 per cent of the population in our countries, explained Ibrahima Sarr. They should therefore be actors in decision-making bodies, so that their concerns were taken more fully into account in development policies. Women represented a force in society: to acknowledge that fact was to recognize their intrinsic value with respect to equity and sustainable human development.

There was also a need for 'a strong, but decentralized state, concerned about the protection of individual and collective rights,' said the Governor of Saint-Louis, Bagwick Ndiaye, 'because such a state is a guarantee of security and durability and has the power, by virtue of its prerogatives, to formulate and implement policies aimed at rebalancing and redistributing resources and jobs and drawing every section of society into the process of political, economic and social emancipation.' Decentralization was also an important requirement for Samba Der Gaye, who maintained that initiatives to assist the population must be preceded by decentralization. 'In our developing countries, resources are poorly distributed, and if we do not rectify the situation, the rich will continue to get richer and the poor still poorer.'

Ibrahima Sarr called for the rescheduling of debts. Given the difficulties experienced by developing countries in repaying their debts, he believed it would be beneficial to reschedule those debts to enable them to redirect capital towards investment, particularly in the context of the fight against poverty.

Moussa Sidibé, of the National Commission on Population in Guinea-Conakry, concurred that security was the most important point, along with the recognition of the rights of citizens, as well as community participation and good governance. In Africa, he went on, corruption still reigned supreme and remained an evil which had to be stamped out. 'Africans must stop asking for charity and seek instead to improve management and mobilize internal resources.'

Access to education for all

Another constant, even among those who saw security as the priority, was access to education for all. Aminata Wane, of the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family, listed her demands: the provision of schooling for girls; literacy programmes for women; education for all; enhanced support for women in higher education and at the end of their secondary schooling in order to increase their involvement in the economic, social and political development of the country; and the introduction into curricula, whether formal or non-formal, of peace studies and civics, which were foundations for harmonious development in all areas of life. A student who had not read the Report said that, in her opinion, the education of young people was the priority, since it was a prerequisite for the country's development. A graduate student of geography called for a new education policy. His country, Senegal, had fallen behind with its efforts to increase enrolment rates, he said. 'The existing education system has reached its limits, for it is based on a model which does not correspond either to our aims or to our development needs.'

Ibrahima Sarr, of the Dakar Regional Planning Service, picked out from the Report the call for the use of alternative teaching methods through the application of new technologies. Such teaching, which might be non-formal, would, he thought, make it possible to provide for the large number of persons of both sexes who had not had access to quality vocational training. It would also make it possible to retrain employees made redundant by the public and comparable services in order to open up new employment opportunities for them. Coumba Ndoiffène Diouf, a lecturer and researcher, was convinced that 'the determinants of the international competitiveness of countries, and thus of their ability to enhance the quality of life of their populations, are themselves highly dependent on the mastery of knowledge.' Consequently, the 'human capital' variable, or, in other words, the health and education of populations, became the key variable in the evolution of countries. He drew the conclusion that Africa must not sign away its hopes of integration in the new era of the world economy for the sake of structural adjustment programmes.

Doudou Ndiaye, of Casamance, stressed that, when compared with other countries, Senegal was lagging far behind. Countries with comparable levels of income (US \$560) had made greater efforts than had the Senegalese as far as education was concerned. It was mostly a question of the poor use of existing resources, he said. 'But, if we wish to combat poverty and exclusion, we have to provide our citizens with a minimum human capital. Above all, we must rationalize the allocation of aid in this sector, since the costs are still too high in relation to the level of resources.'

Cheikh Seck, of the Diourbel Regional Council, thought that education for all remained a slogan. He criticized the national policies on education. The recourse to the use of volunteers was aggravating instability in the sector and was detrimental to the quality of education.

He raised the problem of qualified people who were no longer able to find employment. Although demand for education remained high, some dropped out, especially in outlying areas, largely as a result of poverty.

Saliou Rama Ka, Governor of Tambacounda, confirmed that national enrolment rates were low, although the new initiatives launched by the authorities, particularly with respect to schooling for girls, were to be commended. Sociocultural pressures, however, still acted as powerful brakes on efforts to improve the situation. The Governor of Diourbel, Mr Souleymane Ly, said that, while access to education was a constitutional right, there remained a gulf between the intention and the reality. The low enrolment rates were attributable to outdated buildings and equipment, sociocultural pressures, ineffective use of funding and the inefficient deployment of personnel. In his view, alternative teaching methods must be urgently considered. The schools of today were antiquated and ill-suited to the realities of life. Why not have mixed French-Arabic or French-Koranic schools? 'All the same, there is still a need for a major initiative to raise awareness of the positive aspects of education in our country.'

Making health care available to all

In the opinion of Agona Kanté, of the Dakar Population Network, it was the recommendation that 'preventive and curative services be made available to all in order to avoid any two-tiered delivery of health' which best reflected the concerns of Senegal. She singled out a second recommendation from the Report, regarding the 'shift of financial resources from the over-developed curative, hospital-based model to primary-care community clinics, home-care programmes and preventive initiatives'. The first recommendation, she believed, would render access to health care equitable; the second recommendation, that health care be decentralized, would bring curative and preventive services closer to people and would considerably reduce expenditure on maintaining sophisticated equipment. However, it was not enough, she added, to have 'community clinics responsible for home-care programmes and preventive initiatives, there is also a need to improve the quality of the services offered in the centres providing in-patient treatment.'

Mountaga N'Diaye, a health services director, laid great stress on 'public' health and its determinants: the environment, diet, lifestyle and the health-care system. Cheikh Seck, President of the Diourbel Regional Council, also emphasized the importance of preventive medicine. 'African states,' he said, 'should focus more on preventive rather than curative medicine. They should inaugurate sound health policies, making provision for reproductive health, and also mother-and-child health care.' Health was also a central concern of Sambra Der Gaye, Vice President of the Saint-Louis Regional Council, 'because it is clear, given that the majority of the population dies from minor diseases, that developing countries are unable to provide adequate health care.' Aminata Wane called for better provision for women with a view to reducing female mortality and morbidity rates still further. There was also a need, she thought, to raise awareness among women of methods of preventing certain diseases (Aids, malaria, etc.).

Prioritizing population policy

Ousmane Thiaw was fascinated by the recommendation concerning the paradigm shift towards a new, alternative understanding of population issues. That recommendation urged us to look beyond the population-as-numbers approach and to consider the qualitative aspects of the 'population' phenomenon. Thus, the aim would no longer be merely to

ensure that people survived, as was often the case, but to help them live better by providing the conditions in which they were able to exercise their rights, as defined in the United Nations instruments which all countries had ratified.

Dia Djibril, a planner, wanted sociocultural and religious values advocating chastity and abstinence for unmarried adolescents to be taken into account with respect to reproductive health. He thought that, in looking at the future of demography, it was necessary to consider the ethics and moral values of individuals, rather than focusing exclusively on the economic aspects.

A new funding mechanism

The other element which aroused keen interest among the participants was the proposed new mechanism for funding initiatives within the framework of the world's 'new social contract'. This would involve levying a minimal charge on all international capital movements, with the revenue being used to fund the social programmes agreed by the recent international conferences. Biran Sarr, Governor of Ziguinchor, affirmed that there was a need for a new funding mechanism based on solidarity in order to combat all forms of exclusion and improve quality of life and security. 'Otherwise all the recommendations will be nothing but pious hopes.'

'The most useful recommendation, in my opinion, is the one concerning the mobilization of financial resources,' said Mamadou Kane, Director of International Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senegal. 'This recommendation is made to appear very simple, practical, pragmatic even. It should, however, be seen as a long-term goal, in that the necessary agreements will not be easy to finalize. Alternative solutions will thus have to be found, for these problems need to be resolved as quickly as possible.'

Professor Amadou Tidiane Ba found that the other funding mechanisms proposed or suggested by conferences and other gatherings had never functioned in a satisfactory manner, whereas the mechanism proposed in the Report seemed realistic, in his view, because it was not a question of making states pay contributions or asking them to introduce new taxes. Babacar Thiaw, of the Cheikh Anta Diop University, warned that it had been easy, at the big international meetings, to put programmes together, but, more often than not, they never even got off the ground ... for lack of funds.

Dr. Be Rammaj Miaro II of Chad, a country which is two thirds desert, spoke on the subject of water conservation.

For his part, Mansour Kane, director of CERER in Dakar, stressed the importance of promoting renewable energy sources. This would make it possible to supply energy to populations which would otherwise remain excluded for a long time to come ... 'It is the only way at present,' he said, 'of meeting the basic energy needs of our rural populations, while preserving the environment in the broadest sense of the term.'

Finally, it was the Report's overall vision which captured the attention of Konte Mame Aly, a journalist with the daily newspaper Sud. 'In Africa,' he said, 'a continent in which the quality of life is steadily deteriorating, having almost passed the point of no return, it is vital and inevitable that we should ask ourselves «What is our place?» It is a big question, one that seems likely to occupy us Africans during the first decades of the twenty-first century.'

CONCLUSION

During the two hours that he spent at the seminar, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, Minister of State in the Office of the President of the Republic of Senegal, set forth his vision of the principal characteristics of the situation and trends in contemporary Africa.

He referred, firstly, to the persistence of the phenomenon of Balkanization and the risk of states being split up, for even existing states were subject to centrifugal forces threatening fragmentation. He had in mind ethnic conflicts and attempts to challenge the borders inherited from colonial times.

'A continent adrift'

He warned against the spectre of rapid demographic change in Africa. At stake were the resources of agriculture: in thirty years' time, there would be more than a billion people in Africa with no job or occupation.

Africa's technological backwardness cost it dear. The gap was widening, owing to the industrialized countries' rapid technological progress, notably in the field of information processing, as computers became ever faster and more powerful, and in the sphere of communications, with the advent of the information superhighways. New scientific processes were making available to humankind new sources of energy, substitutes for basic products and new resources previously unknown.

The Minister of State also referred to the weakness of 'managerial' skills in Africa. The private sector's commitment to development, even within its current limits, was compromised by the lack of genuine African entrepreneurs trained in risk management and organization. Intellectuals were more likely to enter the goods and services sector, where they faced competition from the Lebanese and companies from the northern hemisphere which were better equipped technologically and had superior management skills and wider experience. Africa had been unable to take its place in world trade. In fact, its revenues, dependent on raw materials, had declined owing to both the reduction of supply and the downward trend, in real terms, of prices for raw materials. Altogether, Africa represented barely 3 per cent of world trade.

Finally, he observed that Africa was becoming ever more dependent on official aid, just as it was declining and being replaced by private capital. In the countries of Asia and Latin America, private investment had exceeded public investment by a very large measure, while Africa continued to depend on the latter. That trend reflected Africa's marginalization both within the international community and among the developing nations.

According to an article which had appeared in the newspaper *Le Monde* on 27 December 1997, the United Nations believed that

the continent would continue to become poorer in the next century.

'Life in Africa is largely a matter of survival'

Speaking on a different level, one closer to the people, Mamane Hassane, a traditional chief from Niger, warned at the very start of the seminar that most Africans perceived life mainly in quantitative terms. Life, he said, was largely a matter of survival. All objectives were immediate. More than half of all Africans urgently needed education, health care and shelter and the means of feeding themselves. 'For Africa, it is a question of finding the ways and means of leading a more human life.'

In this context, Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, who had just visited a school for street children in a Dakar shanty town, recalled what General Obasanjo, of Nigeria, a member of the Commission, who was currently unjustly imprisoned, used to say in that respect: 'We, too, have the right to quality of life, and not to be condemned to the cruelty of mere survival'.

Dr Be Rammaj Miaro II, of Chad, also emphasized that the issues explored in Caring for the Future were not only questions of moral principles and ethics, but also matters of life and death for humanity. 'They are serious issues for us all,' he said, 'both individually and collectively.'

Doudou Ndiaye, head of the Regional Planning Service of the Ziguinchor region, in Casamance, recalled 'the terrible suffering of the peoples of this region due to the consequences of war. This suffering is exacerbated by the difficulties of providing health care, food and education and training for displaced populations.'

'If only this quality of life could become a reality for our children...'

During the seminar, it may sometimes have appeared that the discussions were leading the participants into the realms of academic rhetoric. However, every time they were immediately brought back to reality. There was an acute awareness that their fine words had to be translated into commitments, decisions and concrete policies. Ms Aminata Cissé, a political philosopher, took the floor to voice her concerns. Born as the African states were winning their independence, she was angry that it was still necessary to talk only of survival. She hoped that things would be different for her children. 'At this seminar, we have identified the problems. We have tried to look into the future. We have decided what sort of future we want. I am still dreaming. If only this quality of life could become a reality for our children...

'But what are we to do now? How can we move from the dream to the reality?'

A student issued her own challenge: 'Must the ideas which emerge from this seminar remain a dead letter, as in the past, or should we look forward, in a spirit of hope, to the translation of the recommendations made and the conclusions reached into concrete achievements?'

'Achieving our goal'

It seemed that, for many of those present, these heartfelt cries were resonant with truths momentarily forgotten in the heat of the debate. They were a pressing reminder of the need for real commitment. Those listening felt a certain impotence, owing to the fact that Africa seemed to be becoming ever more fragmented, rather than uniting like the confederations of states elsewhere in the world. For too long, Africa has appeared to be cut adrift from the other continents, seeming unable to

implement the social reform necessary to enable it to educate everyone and provide health care for all, these being prerequisites for the development of the human resources needed to respond to the demands of an economically and socially viable world.

In her concluding remarks, Ms Pintasilgo reminded the participants, decision-makers and academics belonging to the group whose task it was to shape the Africa of the twenty-first century, of the words of Gandhi: 'When you are deciding a matter, have before you the picture of the poorest man you have met and ask if the decision will help him. If the answer is in the affirmative, take the decision without hesitation': universal advice which remains valid to this day.

Thus the Dakar seminar asked questions of all of us and set the participants the challenge of 'achieving our goal'.



**Main personalities present at the opening ceremony of the
West African Seminar Caring for the Future - Population and Quality of Life**

Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, 4 December 1997

The President of the Republic, Mr **Abdou Diouf**

Mr **Habib Thiam**
Ms **Marie-Louise Corr ea**
Mr **Abdoulaye Wade**

Prime Minister
Minister of Scientific Research and Technology
Minister of State in the Office of the President of the Republic

Ms **Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo**

Former Prime Minister, Portugal;
President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life
Former Minister of Health and Welfare; Professor Emerita, Canada; Member of the Commission

Ms **Monique B gin**

Ms **Aminata Traor **
Mr **Dragoljub Najman**

Minister for Culture and Development, Mali; Member of the Commission
Former Assistant Director-General, UNESCO, France; Adviser to the President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Mr **Souleymane Niang**

Rector of the Cheikh Anta Diop University

The Deans

of the faculties of arts, science and technology, legal and political sciences, economic sciences and management, medicine, and pharmacology.

The Directors

of the Ecole Sup rieure Polytechnique (National School of Administration), the Ecole normale sup rieure (National Teacher Training College), the Institute of Sport, the School of Librarianship, the School of Journalism, the Centre des Oeuvres Universitaires and the Black Africa Institute.

Monsignor **Yacinth Thiandoum**

Archbishop of Dakar

Mr **Souleymane Ly**
Mr **Saliou Sambon**
Mr **Bocar Diallo**
Mr **Mohamed Traor **
Mr **Asse Sougoufara**
Mr **Saliou Rama Ka**
Mr **Bagwick Ndiaye**
Mr **Cheikh Boncounta Gueye**
Mr **Biran Sarr**

Governor, Diourbel region
Governor, Fatick region
Governor, Kaolack region
Governor, Kolda region
Governor, Louga region
Governor, Tambacounda region
Governor, Saint- Louis region
Deputy Governor, Thi s region
Governor, Ziguinchor region

Mr **Cheikh Seck**
Mr **Cheikh Secu**
Mr **Abdoulaye Diallo**
Mr **Ibrahima Wone**
Mr **Sambra Der Gaye**
Mr **Mahmoudou Samoura**

President, Diourbel Regional Council
Vice President, Kaolack Regional Council
General Secretary, Kaolack Regional Council
General Secretary, Louga Regional Council
Vice President, Saint-Louis Regional Council
President, Touba Regional Council

Mr **Ibrahima Sarr**
Mr **Papa Abdoulaye Kane**
Mr **Pape Saliou Toure**
Mr **Baba Dieng**
Mr **Ibrahima Ndong**
Mr **Momar Ndiaye**
Mr **Djibril Dia**
Mr **Saliou Bathily**
Mr **Ch rif Diagne**
Mr **Doudou Ndiaye**

Head, Dakar Regional Planning Service
Head, Diourbel Regional Planning Service
Head, Fatick Regional Planning Service
Head, Kaolack Regional Planning Service
Head, Kolda Regional Planning Service
Head, Louga Regional Planning Service
Deputy Head, Saint-Louis Regional Planning Service
Head, Tamba Regional Planning Service
Head, Thi s Regional Planning Service
Head, Ziguinchor Regional Planning Service

Mr **Bruno Diatta**
Mr **Souleymane Bachir Diagne**

Head of Protocol, Office of the President of the Republic
Technical Adviser, Office of the President of the Republic

Mr **Ousmane Thiaw**

Director, Medico-Social Complex of Derkl 

List of the participants in the work of the West African Seminar

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Prof. Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo	President of the Commission
Prof. Emerita Monique Bégin	Member of the Commission
Dr Aminata Traoré	Member of the Commission
Prof. Dragoljub Najman	Adviser to the President
Dr. Leonard Manneke-Appel	Consultant to the Commission

Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar

Prof. Souleymane Niang	Rector, Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar
------------------------	---

Organizing Committee

Prof. Lat Soucabé Mbow (Seminar co-ordinator)	Central Rector's Office, Department of Research, Co-operation and Investment, (UCAD)
Mr Babacar Thiaw	Department of Research, Co-operation and Investment, (UCAD)
Prof. Maguèye Kasse	Central Rector's Office - Department of Pedagogy and University Reform, (UCAD)
Ms Aminata Diaw Cissé	Director of cultural and sporting events, (UCAD)
Mr Tafsir Diattara	Official representative of the Rector, (UCAD)
Prof. Fadel Diadhiou	Senior Hospital Lecturer in Gynaecology, Aristide Le Dantec Teaching Hospital
Prof. Mamadou Gueye	Senior Hospital Lecturer in Neurosurgery, Fann Teaching Hospital
Mr Diène Dione	Junior Lecturer in Geography, Faculty of Arts, (UCAD)
Mr Papa Sakho	Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, (UCAD)
Mr Alioune Badara Diagne	University General Secretary, (UCAD)
Dr Léonard Manneke-Appel	Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Chairpersons of the Working Groups

Prof. Moustapha Kasse	Dean, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management
Prof. Cheikh Ba	Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Holder of the Chair in Human Geography
Prof. Amadou Tidiane Ba	Director, Institute of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology
Prof. Fatou Sow	Researcher, Black Africa Institute; Director of a forthcoming study on the Senegalese woman in the year 2015

Rapporteurs of the Working Groups

Prof. Maguèye Kasse	Ms Aminata Diaw Cissé
Mr Babacar Thiaw	Mr Diène Dione

Regional Participants from West Africa

Ms Bernadette Pallé (Burkina Faso)	Executive Secretary, GREFFA - Co-ordinator of the Subregional Network African Women and Human Rights (REFADH), Ouagadougou
Ms Henrietta Diabate (Côte d'Ivoire)	Former Minister of Culture Professor, University of Abidjan
Mr Jean-Noel Gassita (Gabon)	Professor - Adviser to the President of the Republic
Mr Moussa Sidibé (Guinea)	Permanent Secretary, National Commission on Population and Human Resources National Department of the Plan, Ministry of the Plan and Co-operation, Conakry
Mr Ould Abdel Hamid (Mauritania)	President, Mauritanian Human Rights League, Nouakchott
Mr Elhadji Mamane Hassane (Niger)	Customary chief - Association of Traditional Chiefs of Niger, Niamey
Dr Be Rammaj Miaro II (Chad)	Research and Action for Development, N'Djamena
Ms Kafui Kpegba Dzotsi (Togo)	Member of the National Assembly - General Secretary, Togolese Union for Democracy, Lomé

*Senegalese participants (from outside Dakar)***Ibrahima Barey**

Governor's Office - Kolda region

Salifou Deme

Governor's Office - Kaolack region

Djibril Dia

Deputy Head - Saint-Louis Regional Planning Service

Chérif Diagne

Head - Thiès Regional Planning Service

Abdoulaye Diallo

General Secretary - Kaolack Regional Council

Bocar Diallo

Governor - Kaolack region

Ms Diallo Diaw

Governor's Office - Kaolack region

Ibrahima Diallo

Governor's Office - Touba region

Papa Diallo

Governor's Office - Diourbel region

Ansou Diame

Governor's Office - Saint-Louis region

Baba Dieng

Head - Kaolack Regional Planning Service

Ousmane Diop

Diourbel Regional Council

Ousmane Drame

Kaolack Regional Council

Sambra Der Gaye

Vice President - Saint-Louis Regional Council

Cheikh Boncounta Gueye

Deputy Governor - Thiès region

Saliou Rama Ka

Governor - Tambacounda region

Ousmane Kelé

Governor's Office - Ziguinchor region

Souleymane Ly

Governor - Diourbel region

Momar Ndiaye

Head - Louga Regional Planning Service

Adama Ndiaye

Governor's Office - Fatick region

Bagwick Ndiaye

Governor - Saint-Louis region

Ibrahima Ndong

Head - Kolda Regional Planning Service

Sophie Niang

Cheikh Anta Diop University

Ndiaga Niass

Louga Regional Council

Saliou Sambon

Governor - Fatick region

Mahmoudou Samoura

President - Touba Regional Council

Biran Sarr

Governor - Ziguinchor region

Cheikh Seck

President - Diourbel Regional Council

Cheikh Secu

Vice President - Kaolack Regional Council

Diamé Signaté

Tambacounda Regional Council

Asse Sougoufara

Governor - Louga region

Pape Saliou Touré

Head - Fatick Regional Planning Service

Mohamed Traoré

Governor - Kolda region

Ibrahima Wone

General Secretary - Louga Regional Council

*Senegalese participants (living in Dakar)***Aminou Adamou**

Student - ISTI (from Niger)

Djibril Agne**Baba Aidara**

Pharmacist and demographer

Konte Mame Aly

Journalist - Sud-Quotidien

Soda Amar

Pharmacology student

Cheikh Ba

Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences

Cheikh Anta Diop University

Mame Farimata Ba

Student

Amadou Tidiane Ba

Director - Institute of Environmental Sciences

Cheikh Anta Diop University

Coumba Ba

Deputy, National Assembly

Faculty of Science - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Ignace Baguidi**Ibrahima Barey****Sophie Bitèye**

Student

Jacques Bugnicourt

Executive Secretary - Enda Tiers-Monde

Alexis Campal

Department of Town Planning and Architecture

Adama Cassé

Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Aminata Diaw Cissé

Lecturer, DIACS - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Adji Yacine Cissé

Faculty of Science and Technology - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Maty Cissé

Cheikh Anta Diop University

Abdoulaye Dia**Fadel Diadhiou**

Senior Hospital Lecturer in Gynaecology

Aristide Le Dantec Teaching Hospital

Alioune Badara Diagne

Director - Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Enseignement Technique et Professionnel (National Training College for Teachers of Technical and Vocational Subjects)

Abdoulaye Diagne

Director, CREA - Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, Cheikh Anta Diop University

Sékou Diagne**Adama Diallo****Yahya Diallo**

Researcher - Black Africa Institute

Bruno Diatta

Head of Protocol - Office of the President of the Republic

Tafsir Diattara

Official representative of the Rector

Cheikh Anta Diop University

Aminata Diaw

Lecturer - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Diène Dione

Faculty of Arts - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Libasse Diop**Babacar Diop**

Journalist - APS

Assa Dianbo Diop

Department of Research - Co-operation and Investment Rector's Office, Cheikh Anta Diop University

Abdoulaye Bara Diop**Cherif Boubacar Diouf****Coumba Ndoffène Diouf**

Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management

Abdou Fall**Séga Seck Fall****Birame Faye**

Journalist

Marlène Francois-Lays

Deputy representative - UNFPA

Djiby Gaye

Television director

Head, CESTI Technical Service - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Fatou Mbacké Gueye
Department of Town Planning and Architecture

Birahim Moussa Gueye

Mamadou Gueye
Senior Hospital Lecturer in Neurosurgery
Fann University Hospital

Mamadou Kane
Transregional Division
Department of International Organizations

Mansour Kane
Director, CERER - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Matel Kane
Faculty of Science and Technology - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Arona Kanté
Population Network

Maguèye Kasse
Professor - Department of Pedagogy and University Reform,
Cheikh Anta Diop University

Moustapha Kasse
Dean of Faculty - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Lilyane Kesteloot
Black Africa Institute

Ms Kitiana
Researcher - Black Africa Institute

Amadou Ly
Department of Research - Co-operation and Investment
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Elhadji Mbodji

Lat Soucabé M'Bow
Professor - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Djiby Ndiaye

Bineta Ndiaye
Physician

Mountaga Ndiaye
Director of university health services
Cheikh Anta Diop University

Lamine Ndiaye
Office of the President of the Republic

Ndioro Ndiaye
Former Minister of Women - Children and the Family;
Director, Institute of Odonto-Stomatology

Djibril Ngom
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Souleymane Niang
Rector - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Ismaila Niang

Kéba Bourama Sagna
Office of the President of the Republic

Papa Sakho
Assistant lecturer in geography - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Mamadou Moustapha Sall

Ibrahima Sarr
Head - Dakar Regional Planning Service

Eunice Seye
Department of Research - Co-operation and Investment
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Diatta Seye Bataillon
Office of the President of the Republic

Amsatou Sow Sidibé

Moustapha Sourang

Fatou Sow
Researcher - Black Africa Institute - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Oumar Sow
Graduate student in geography - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Niang Diarra Sow
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Antoine Sylva
CESTI Technical Service - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Ousmane Thiaw
Socio-economist; Director
Municipal Sociocultural Complex of Derklé

Babacar Thiaw
Department of Research - Co-operation and Investment
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Salimata Wade
Lecturer and researcher - Cheikh Anta Diop University

Youssoupha Wade

Aminata Wane
Technical adviser - Ministry of Women, Children and the Family

Oumar Wane

Mohammed Yade
Department of Research - Co-operation and Investment
Rector's Office - Cheikh Anta Diop University

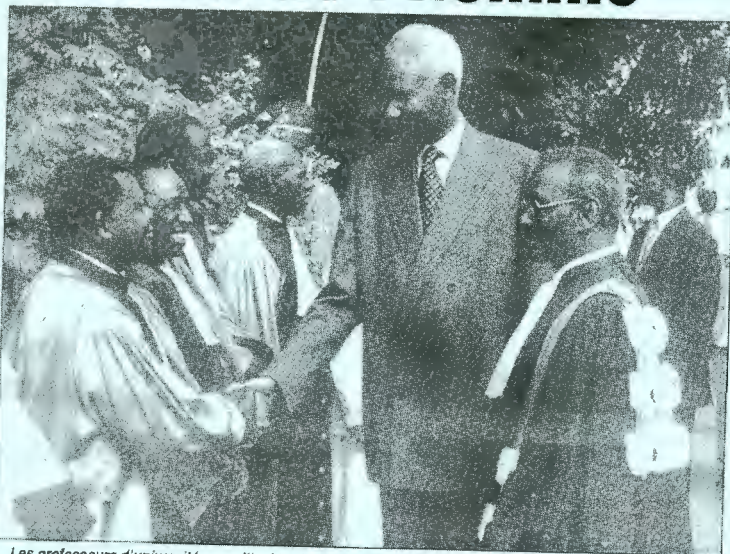
VENDREDI 5
DECEMBRE 1997

150 F CFA • 27e ANNEE • N° 0254

FRANCE 6 FF • COTE D'IVOIRE 250 F CFA
GABON 350 F CFA • CAMEROUN 300 F
CFA • GUINEE : TOGO / BURKINA FASO •
MALI 250 F CFA • ISSN 0850/0703

Le soleil

Universités : débat sur l'avenir de l'homme



Les professeurs d'université accueillent le chef de l'Etat à son arrivée à l'auditorium «Khaly Amar Fall».

Toute la prospective menée sur l'avenir de l'humanité au seuil du 3e millénaire se ramène à une question essentielle voire existentielle : comment asseoir un développement durable tout en garantissant l'épanouissement de l'homme ? En présidant hier matin l'ouverture à l'UCAD du Séminaire international de la «Commission Indépendante Population et qualité de la Vie» autour de l'ouvrage «Saisir l'Avenir», le chef de l'Etat a mis en relief la solidarité et l'altruisme qui doivent guider les relations humaines.

PAGES 4-5

Le chef de l'Etat à Téhéran dimanche

Le président de la République quittera Dakar, le dimanche 7 décembre 1997, à destination de Téhéran.

Le chef de l'Etat, qui conduira la délégation sénégalaise au 8e Sommet de l'OCI, regagnera Dakar, le jeudi 11 décembre 1997.

Les «surga» et la cuisine

• Par A. S. KANE

L'Etat, à travers le ministère de l'Intérieur, ferait comme du harcèlement à l'encontre du Renouveau et de son animateur principal surtout. Ce serait anti-démocratique, anti-républicain et contraire à l'Etat de droit pour tout dire. Le pouvoir d'Etat, la police en l'occurrence, se serait ainsi mis au service d'un parti politique pour en résoudre les contradictions internes. C'est une mauvaise lecture des textes et une analyse incorrecte des choses qui font, à certains, ainsi dire ou penser. Personne n'est harcelé ou privé de ses droits. La police ne fait rien dans cette affaire en dehors de la loi et de ses prérogatives républicaines.

Le premier de ses devoirs, c'est de veiller au respect de l'ordre public. Qu'est-ce à dire. Que tout ce qui y contrevient ou pourrait y contrevénir est surveillé, répertorié, fiché, et le cas échéant, réprimé. Il est bien connu, n'est-ce pas, que prévenir vaut mieux que guérir et que gouverner c'est prévoir.

Suite page 6



Le duo Sakho-Loum (de droite à gauche) lors d'une session budgétaire. (Photo d'archives)

Sakho-Loum Un tandem bien noté

Motion de félicitations au tandem Sakho-Loum, hier à l'Assemblée nationale où se déroulait le vote de la loi rectificative de finances.

Les parlementaires ont tenu en cette occasion à louer «l'action clairvoyante, transparente et efficace des deux hommes dans leur gestion de l'économie nationale».

PAGE 2

Fesnac : le mariage traditionnel sur scène

PAGE 8



Lors du match de gala d'hier, Ronaldo, de l'équipe du reste du monde, est taclé par l'italien Costacurva de la formation européenne.

Photo AFP/Gabriel Bouys

Tirage du mondial 98 Difficile mais jouable pour les Africains !

La 16e édition de la coupe du monde de football a connu son véritable lancement avec le tirage au sort assez équilibré dans l'ensemble qui a eu lieu hier à Marseille. Pour les cinq représentants du continent africain (Maroc, Cameroun, Afrique du Sud, Nigeria et Tunisie), ce tirage est certes difficile mais aussi jouable et ils peuvent espérer passer le premier tour. Le match d'ouverture opposera le Brésil à l'Ecosse le 10 juin au Stade de France.

PAGE 16

Text of the President's speech at the opening of the West African seminar, reproduced by Le Soleil, Friday 5 December 1997

PRESIDENT ABDOU DIOUF

Rediscovering the caring capacity

Madam President, when you informed me of your wish to organize, together with the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, this workshop on the Report *Caring for the Future*, it was with great pleasure and eagerness that I agreed to chair the opening ceremony.

The days of study to which this prestigious institution will play host have brought together eminent specialists from several disciplines to discuss a concept of capital importance: quality of life. As you know, in thinking about development we should transcend the narrow economic approach and place at the very heart of our reflections and actions populations and their needs, their behaviour and aspirations, and the attitudes and identities on which they base their idea of economic and sociocultural progress, their idea of happiness.

We have always espoused this outlook, here in Senegal, where there is a firm conviction, inspired by the actions of President Senghor, that development is meaningful only if the human element is its beginning and its end.

I should like to commend, in this connection, the very high standard of the document which is to form the basis of your work. Its title, *Caring for the Future*, expresses so aptly what is required from all of us, men and women of thought and action, by the interdependent world in which we live, a world which must confront enormous challenges if the coming millennium is to have a human face. Population problems, as you know, are not the least of the difficulties which have to be tackled, and indeed, in examining other issues, we are often brought back to the population question. As you state in your preface to the Report, Madam President, a 'fresh vision' is needed.

And this idea is echoed by Mr Bernard Kouchner in the preface to the French edition of the Report: he too calls on our civilization to consider what kind of future it wishes to bequeath to our planet, and urges that demographic growth be brought under control, the environment preserved and human development attained everywhere.

As you so rightly emphasize, the fresh vision, which this seminar is intended to expand on and publicize, will not emerge from compartmentalized, sectoral research, but only from a holistic approach capable of combining the ecological, economic, demographic, social, cultural and political dimensions. In a word, an approach capable of confronting the complexity which has become the chief characteristic - indeed, the very substance - of our world today.

A determinant of national policy

This is the *raison d'être* of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, which has brought together men and women whose insight with respect to the problems facing humanity accounts for the importance and value of the Report to which I have referred. And it gives me great pleasure, Madam

President, to commend you, most gratefully and warmly, upon the enlightened manner in which you have chaired this Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I referred, a few moments ago, to the philosophy of human development which our country has always espoused and which we have sought to reflect in our policies. Thus, in April 1988, following the African conference on population, which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, in January 1984, and at which the so-called Kilimanjaro programme of action was drawn up, Senegal adopted a declaration on population policy. This was the subject of an interdepartmental council, which I myself chaired, in April 1988.

Our aim in adopting this declaration, which reflected our awareness of the crucial importance of demographic questions, was to make population problems a determinant of our national economic and social development policy. A number of priorities were identified, expressing in concrete terms our determination to place population questions at the heart of the global strategy for our continent's recovery, in accordance with our commitment to the whole African community. These priorities were:

To improve quality of life and to work towards the attainment of well-being among all sections of society, by reducing mortality, particularly among the vulnerable categories of women and children; reducing the fertility rate through appropriate measures reflecting the interests of the population and their values; working to reduce gradually the disparities in the population density of Senegal's regions through the implementation of a development policy intended to eliminate the causes of these disparities; and enhancing national skills and capacities with respect to population problems in the diverse areas of demographics, sociology, history, geography, development planning, etc.

Keeping quality of life constantly in mind means paying particular attention to those for whom life is often insecure and unstable - those most affected by the strains of living in poverty. That is why our population policy accords priority to the protection of vulnerable groups: women, young people and the elderly. Under the policy, their welfare is to be ensured through sectoral development programmes and national solidarity.

Protection of vulnerable groups

This involves, among other things, the improvement of health services and the conducting of appropriate information and communication campaigns aimed at creating informed and well-considered support for family planning and a policy of staggering births with a view to reducing maternal and infant and child mortality due to frequent pregnancies.

Beyond this desire to protect vulnerable groups, our effort to place the questions of population and quality of life at the centre of development strategy also involves a determined policy of empowering women with a view to achieving their full participation in the economic and social development of our countries. This is a prerequisite for the establishment of the most elementary democracy and the attainment of the social justice to which we are so deeply committed; and it is a *sine qua non* for effective development policies.

We know, to give just one example, and this is a cause which is particularly close to my heart, that increasing enrolment rates among girls and focusing on their education and training have multiplier effects, which are of particular significance for the objectives pursued, especially those relating to population issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I should like to come back to the Report *Caring for the Future* in order to underline the importance, in my eyes, of the central concept of 'care', which ought to inform the market economy. It is not the least of this work's merits that it invites us to reflect upon the manner in which this concept, an ethical one in the final analysis, gives rise to an attitude of altruism and solidarity, which should provide the real foundation of economic rationality, and to what the Report correctly describes simply as 'the rediscovery of our caring capacity'.

Solidarity and altruism have thus had the last word. Now, having welcomed all the guests who have come to share with us in this important debate, I declare open this workshop on *Caring for the Future*.



An article published by *Le Soleil*, Friday December 5, 1997

A blueprint for a fresh vision of the future

How can we advance humankind through development policies? How can we focus these policies on satisfying basic needs, while preserving fundamental human rights? Can we talk of human rights in countries crushed by poverty? Is this not obscene? Has the basic concept of human rights finally become universalized? These questions, raised by the former French minister Bernard Kouchner in his preface to the book *Caring for the Future*, no doubt lay behind the plea by the head of state, speaking yesterday in the Khaly Amar Fall Amphitheatre at the Cheikh Anta Diop University, for 'a fresh vision of the future, a holistic approach combining the ecological, economic, demographic, social, cultural and political dimensions'.

President Abdou Diouf, who was the guest of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, chaired by the former Prime Minister of Portugal, Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, and the entire university community, including the Rector, Mr Souleymane Niang, and the various deans of faculty, used this opportunity to underline the capital importance of the concept 'quality of life'.

Indeed, for the head of state, thinking about development means transcending the narrow economic approach and placing at the very heart of our reflections and actions populations and their needs, their behaviour and aspirations, and the attitudes and identities on which they base their idea of economic and sociocultural progress, and their idea of happiness.

An unprecedented debate

The Dakar meeting is an important stage in the unprecedented debate conducted since 1992 by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, a multidisciplinary group consisting of eminent specialists from every field who are attempting, through a holistic, integrated approach, to establish the parameters for sustainable development.

In its Report, entitled *Caring for the Future*, the Commission attempts to set out a fresh vision of population problems, taking as its main references human rights and the socio-economic conditions which determine change within communities. One of the Report's main conclusions, in this regard, is that the concept of quality of life should be the primary objective when formulating and implementing initiatives to stabilize the world's population, since this promotes absolute respect for the human rights of women, the poor and other vulnerable groups.

The aims of the Dakar meeting are to publicize the Commission's recommendations and to study ways of implementing them, while opening up a frank and searching dialogue between the political authorities and the various representatives of civil society in the French-speaking countries of sub-Saharan Africa. This was the reason for the presence, alongside the members of the Commission, who had come from various countries of the subregion, and the representatives of the university community, of several regional governors, local councillors and representatives of civil society.

After expressing his satisfaction that such a meeting should be held in Dakar, President Abdou Diouf commended the 'very high standard of the document' which was to form the basis of the participants' work. Its title (*Caring for the Future*) expressed so aptly what was required by the interdependent world in which we lived, a world which had to confront enormous challenges if the coming millennium was to have a human face.

Uniting without excluding

Clearly, this plea by the head of state, placing human beings at the beginning and end of any process of development, could not but strengthen the members of the Commission in their conviction. The President of the Commission, Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, defined its approach, objectives and outcomes. 'The task upon which we are embarking marks the completion of one stage of our work, while presenting us with a new challenge. Our presence here indicates that we share a common desire and a deep commitment that we should be bold enough, each of us from our different backgrounds, to reflect together upon the recommendations of a text which seeks to play an active part in the process of globalization that is melding us today into a human family,' stated Ms Pintasilgo. In her view, the Commission's task was not merely to produce a Report, but also to evaluate, in the regions, the appropriateness of the ideas and practical recommendations which it had formulated and put forward in the real world, where popular will, scientific progress and political decision-making intersect. Indeed, the Commission had sought to be the living expression of a globalization capable of uniting without excluding, able to transcend outdated categories and embrace issues which concerned both the North and the South.

Turning to the question of globalization, a new phenomenon which had had an immediate impact upon the entire planet,

Ms Pintasilgo argued for the reinforcement of the role of the nation-state, which must be assumed by states embodying the collective will of their peoples. In her view, new solutions needed to be found, for representative democracy was no longer able to give expression to the plurality of ideas and forces which were active within societies, lending them their vitality and cohesion.

Ms Pintasilgo also referred to the extension of the sovereignty of nation-states beyond the borders of their territories to span the frontiers of the earth itself. Paraphrasing a remark by Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, she said that the market, left to itself, was not merely short-sighted, but blind: it did not see the poor, the weak and the non-unionized, it was without an active conscience, driven as it was by the imperative of competitiveness. This meant that only states could establish a framework for the market. That point had been made eloquently in the last report of the World Bank, which, having championed deregulation, had finally realized that the market, far from superseding the state, cried out for it. Ms Pintasilgo also emphasized the importance of the issue of security, which was the starting-point for quality of life. As war took on new forms with internal conflicts arising from ethnic, religious and demographic tensions, armaments and the arms trade remained factors of insecurity for which equal responsibility was borne by those who spent a high percentages of their GNP on purchasing arms and those who, despite their dominant share of the global economy and their conviction that they were the driving force of the world, enriched themselves through the arms trade.

Social and economic insecurity as potential threats to peace, the mobilization of consciences, compassion as a new element of the ethical paradigm enabling us to enter the third millennium with humanity, caring for the future by linking environmental and population problems, all of these determinants of quality of life have been analysed in fine detail by the Commission and were presented with insight by Ms Pintasilgo, prompting the Rector of the University, Mr Souleymane Niang, to say that the Dakar meeting was of capital importance for the future. 'By focusing on population problems, the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life has brought into sharp relief the real challenges that we face and the fundamental questions that must be resolved if we are to attain a better quality of life, achieve integrated human development, and build a civilization based on universality.'

Mamadou Kasse

An article which appeared in Pop' Enjeux, no. 6, December 1997

Caring for the Future: A fresh vision of demographic problems.

Caring for the Future is a work produced by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life.

The Commission sets out the main lines of its vision of 'population problems'. Chaired by Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, former Prime Minister of Portugal, it includes representatives of civil society, as well as political and economic leaders.

The North and the South are equally represented among its members, as are men and women. The task assigned to the Commission, which had three years to complete its work, was to elaborate a fresh vision of international demographic problems, taking as its main references human rights and socio-economic conditions.

As Bernard Kouchner states in his preface to the French edition, 'this book describes a dream: the ideal programme of a world government. But, in the absence of a global political authority, something which does not yet exist, the answer must lie, for now, in creating a «fresh vision», capable of changing the existing patterns of production and consumption, by looking at «population problems» as part of a bigger picture, rather than approaching them piecemeal, as at present.'

The Report starts out from the premise that demographic problems and quality of life go hand in hand. The authors maintain that the question of demographic transition transcends 'any simplistic notion that a solution rests solely on stabilization of the global population'. Thus, the Commission believes, population is becoming a strategic factor of national and international policies.

The Report seeks ways of improving the quality of life, with the eradication of absolute poverty and the preservation of the environment emerging as key factors. It begins by listing the most urgent objectives for the international community in such crucial areas as food security, development of basic infrastructure, access to clean drinking water, education and training, health, the role of women, social cohesion, etc. The approach is thus a holistic one. It can no longer be a question, for example, of prioritizing defence security at the expense of human security. Instead, social issues must be accorded greater priority. Hence the need to transform public policy at the national and international levels by adopting an approach which integrates all the processes affecting quality of life. This globalization does not, however, diminish the importance of the role of the nation-state. On the contrary, globalization of this type should promote the emergence of strong nation-states 'which embody the collective will of their peoples' and are able to protect our home, the earth, from the untoward effects of globalization itself. The Report places great importance on the issue of security and the new forms it is assuming, and on the establishment of 'ethical standards', which is a task for states alone.

Assessing international commitments, the Commission is critical of the fact that there is no comprehensive and detailed inventory of the priority programmes agreed at the recent international conferences and their cost estimates. Noting the inadequacy of the sums allocated in response to the prioritization by the recent conferences of the improvement of quality of life, it observes that the sad reality is that in recent years very little finance has been mobilized to meet these needs.

The Commission concludes that 'relying on the faltering generosity of individual nations is no longer enough'. It therefore attempts to find new mechanisms for funding global priorities, taking account of the phenomenon of globalization.

It proposes, in this context, that a study be undertaken of the possibility of levying a tax on international trade or redirecting the 'peace dividend' into a Global Demilitarization Fund or a Global Food Security Fund.

Several other mechanisms are proposed: levies on airline tickets or aviation fuel, on international postage, or on the international trade in goods and services, or the creation of an international lottery, with the profits devoted to global priorities.

The Commission requests the United Nations General Assembly to commission studies of the feasibility of these various mechanisms.

The Commission concludes that the best means of financing global priorities is the establishment of an international charge

on all transactions in the world's financial markets. The proceeds would be collected by the central banks of each country and administered by an international institution established to that end.

The Commission stresses the need, while these new mechanisms are being put in place, to halt the continuing decline of official development assistance (ODA) and to induce the industrialized countries to honour their pledge of 0.7 per cent of their GNP. With global wealth increasing by some \$700 billion each year, the Commission is convinced that, given the requisite will and action, it will be possible, early in the twenty-first century, to end absolute poverty and to conserve our planet's biodiversity.

Overall, the Report, which is highly critical of the way in which development questions were approached until recent years, presents a new perspective on the population/development interface and provides a body of recommendations which merit careful examination.

It must be noted, however - indeed, it becomes clear on reading the Report - that the holistic approach it advocates is reminiscent of that adopted by the last World Conference on Population, held in Cairo in 1994.

Abdoulaye Fall
Director of Human Resources Planning

Report on

**THE CARIBBEAN
SEMINAR**

CARING FOR THE CARIBBEAN'S FUTURE

held by

**THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE
and**

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST-INDIES

in Kingston, Jamaica, from 11 to 13 June, 1998

with the financial contribution of
the Directorate-General for Development (DG. VIII)
of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium





Banner conceived by Michael Gordon, artist, Kingston, showing the contours of the Caribbean archipelago surrounded by two hands.

Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	82
Characteristics of the preparation for the Caribbean Seminar	83
A University as partner	83
'Domesticating' global issues	83
Title and themes of the Seminar	83
Caribbean «mottos»	84
Development of the sub-themes	84
Actual sub-themes for the working groups	85
The opening ceremony	86
Caribbean voices: echoes from the working groups	88
Out of Africa	88
Political and social violence	88
Racial discrimination and work	89
Social indicators in statistics	89
Increasing the security of agricultural incomes	89
Tourism	90
Participation instead of exclusion	90
Boys and the school system	90
'Caribbean men - Agenda'	91
The ethics of environment	91
The cause of caring	92
A call for integrated policies for action	92
Reactions from the Commission members	
with excerpts from Caribbean authors and participants	93
Annexes	97

Culture is the form through which each one of us produces answers to the challenges of existence.

Carlos Fuentes

INTRODUCTION

After the publication of its Report entitled «Caring for the Future»¹ and in accordance with one of the terms of its mandate: 'reaching out to the large and broad constituency worldwide', the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life decided to set up - in partnership with Universities - a series of symposia allowing representatives of a specific region to translate the «fresh vision» expressed in the Report and its global recommendations into locally and regionally relevant political measures and activities.

The Commission's task (1992-1996) was to elaborate a global vision of population issues, with emphasis on both human rights and the social and economic conditions affecting changes in population. One of its conclusions is that Quality of Life is the global framework within which the analysis and action to stabilize the world's population - fully respecting both the rights of men and women, and the rights of the poor and the most underprivileged - is made possible. The components of the various quality of life rights recognized through the UN legal instruments give to the concept of quality of life a specific content. The overriding challenge of quality of life for all has essentially global imperatives and implies an impact on regional and local policies. To foster a common reflection leading to regional and local action is the aim of the seminars the Commission has now set up.

As places of dialogue with different social actors, these seminars bring together representatives of government,

administration and parliament, of non-governmental organisations, and of intellectual and cultural circles, all of which are agents of transformation in their field of competence and influence. Besides the strengthening of one's personal commitment and the rediscovery of the finality of one's political or social action, the very event of the seminar brings to the participants the conviction that common action is possible on many fronts. Everywhere people are uncertain of the future. The seminar can thus become the starting point for new initiatives at the grassroots level, within the scientific and business communities and in our own political institutions.

The organisation of symposia in countries of the Lomé Convention has been made possible by a generous contribution from the Directorate-General for Development (DG.VIII) of the Commission of the European Union, Brussels. The first seminar took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (19-21 September, 1997). The second was held in Dakar, Senegal (4-6 December, 1997). The third and last one of this series took place in Kingston, Jamaica (11-13 June, 1998).

The following pages are an attempt to summarise the main elements of the Kingston seminar, describing its characteristics, transmitting some echoes from the working groups and quoting extensively different declarations, from local authorities as well as from members of the Independent Commission.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PREPARATION OF THE CARIBBEAN SEMINAR

• University as partner

The conferences initiated by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, in the perspective of the report's dissemination and the implementation of its recommendations into measures within the regional and local context, have been organized in cooperation with universities: the University of Dar es Salaam for the East African region; with the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar for the West African region; the University of the West Indies for the Caribbean region.

Universities are research institutions where events to come are being anticipated, and where prospective leaders not yet drawn into the heart of the action are preparing themselves for the future by creating relationships and developing the conceptual basis of their hopes and their ambitions. Universities are also places where the diagonals of political power, a country's leadership potential and fundamental expertise meet. Above all, as Prof. Rex Nettleford, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of the West-Indies said at the opening of the Caribbean seminar, 'the University's quest (is) to remain an instrument of development and growth on the threshold of the third millennium; growth and development not simply in terms of such indicators as gross domestic product and gross national income, of employment statistics and consumer durables like motor cars, refrigerators and television sets per capita, but in terms of the creative potential of the still most valuable resource at our command - people'.

'People' are at the heart of the report 'Caring for the future'. 'All too often people are forgotten in favour of abstract, macroeconomic targets : low inflation rates, balanced national budgets. If population is considered in numbers alone, isolated from the other aspects of life, this is wrong in both human and scientific terms. The quality of life of population as people, therefore, should be the central focus of all policy-making². For Professor Nettleford, this seemed indeed to be the essential richness of the report : to replace people and the human being in their totality (including the arts of the imagination to which the Caribbean scene is so attentive) at the centre of care for the future.

Cooperation on the project of a seminar bringing together at the University representatives of the government and administration, of non-governmental organisations, and of academia, originating from the Caribbean region was proposed by the Independent Commission to the University of the West Indies (UWI). Once the Vice-Chancellor of UWI's agreement was received, the organizer of the Seminar, Dr Leonard Manneke-Appel, a consultant to the Commission, met with a university committee in september 1997. The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr Barrington Chevannes, designated as counterpart by the Vice-Chancellor, was unable to take part in this committee, for health reasons³. The Deputy Dean, Ms Marion Bernard,

replaced him and convened representatives of the following areas: the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Departments of Sociology and Social Work, and of Economics, the Center for Gender and Development Studies at the University, the Association of Development Agencies (ADA), the Population Unit of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Caribbean Conference of Churches.

• 'Domesticating' global issues

From the discussions among this group, emerged the very strong desire to 'domesticate' in the words of Easton Williams, from the Planning Institute of Jamaica - the global issues of population, development, environment and the like. Participants had the impression that so much had been discussed on the global issues, through UN conferences, reports and Commissions over the past years, that it indeed seemed timely to come together to pursue these issues in domestic settings and to bring them down to the domestic level. The expression 'domesticating' expressed both the intention to work on the region's own problems in the light of global recommendations, and the wish to master them in a more concrete way, far from the generalities contained in 'books on the shelf'. The members of the group seemed no longer to see the usefulness of convening a Caribbean conference on the report as such to simply endorse conclusions reached by others. But should the seminar enable its participants to work on the Caribbean's future in the light of the report's recommendations, then Jamaica seemed to be the right place for welcoming an event concerned with the whole of the Caribbean archipelago.

• Title and themes of the Seminar

This reflection led to the formulation of the title of the seminar: 'Caring for the Caribbean's future', clearly indicating the localisation of the seminar's concerns.

Mainly under the leadership of Dr Patricia Y. Anderson, senior lecturer in sociology, six themes were singled out from the report that - according to the group - met the most the region's concerns and that should be deepened, they said, during the symposium:

1. Improving security.
2. Eco-systems.
3. Combating exclusion.
4. Job creation and income maintenance.
5. Advocating health care.
6. Sustainable development through gender equity and family life.

Other themes essential to the report such as the call for a new social contract or the issue of finding the means to finance internationally agreed programmes, and others, were considered being 'transversal', which means that they could come up at any time in any of the working groups.

Because of the intensive use of all larger rooms available on the campus during the academic year, the only date possible seemed to be the vacation time : a tentative date for January was set, on the condition that the preparation committee would be able to establish the necessary contacts in time. It appeared soon thereafter that this first date had to be abandoned and that the Easter vacation had to be considered.

Unfortunately the delay seemed to have relaxed the intensity of the preparation that would have been necessary to pull off the event in time.

A personal element complicated the preparation : the Deputy Dean, Ms Marion Bernard, in charge of the preparation, left the university to live abroad. However, before leaving she ensured a suitable continuation in the preparation of the seminar. Not only did she set new dates (11, 12, and 13 June, 1998), but also found the capable people to replace her. Dr Patricia Y. Anderson and Professor Chukwudum Uche in the Department of Sociology were willing to lead the preparation and to look out for a person who would coordinate the meeting who happens to be Mr Sheldon Neufville. In such a context, the Centre for Population, Community and Social Change, founded by Dr Anderson, became the active organiser of the seminar.

The Caribbean orientation of the event enriched the concept of the seminars launched by the Independent Commission. But the whole preparation became entirely dependent on the activity, rhythm and choices of the local committee. As time was running out, consultation was minimal. The actual preparation and organisation started late, so that some aspects of the conference, however brilliantly set up and led, showed the last-minute nature of its preparation.

Only a relatively small number of participants, mostly government officials, from the islands outside of Jamaica took part in the event since contacts with Cuba, Haiti and other non-English speaking countries in the region had failed.

At their arrival most of the participants were still very unfamiliar with the report and its recommendations, which weakened the very dynamics that could have come out of the inter-action between the report's conclusions and the challenges in the Caribbean archipelago.

There were certainly other reasons for the delay in the preparation of the seminar, such as the workload of the people in charge and the intense university schedule (even during the seminar professors attending had to leave to lead examination sessions).

• Caribbean «mottos»

Caribbean nations all share a very small marine ecosystem which has developed a common development paradigm. Their socioeconomic and physical similarity of resource use and development unifies the region around the need for common approaches towards the management and care of these resources. Issues which are considered as crucial to the future of Caribbean states are numerous and largely connected to matters of population, resource management and development, popular participation, and the establishment of a sustainable framework from which to pursue the future. The Caribbean islands need regional strategies to care for themselves. 'Caring for the Caribbean's Future' is an attempt to enhance the vision of sustainable development through providing a fresh view in matters of population and quality of life.

In collaboration with the Planning Commission of Jamaica, a big effort was made to define the sub-themes of the working groups, in matching the general themes formulated by the report 'Caring for the Future' down to the Caribbean realities and the conceptual basis of the seminar:

Caring for the Caribbean's Future The Challenge of Population and Change in the Caribbean

• Development of the sub-themes

As the conference would take the format of group discussions, three sessions were planned for each group:

1. Improving security.

Safeguarding the peoples of the region from internal and external security challenges is a main concern in the face of increasing threats to the physical and psychological survival of individuals, due to poverty, crime and violence, and increased drug usage. In such a context, the discussions would be centered successively on:

- poverty and violence,
- socialisation away from violence,
- security of agricultural incomes.

2. Eco-system.

The Caribbean is a unique and precious ecosystem. Protection of the common environment against improper usages and threats posed by nuclear trans-shipment, resource over-exploitation and generally improper management is foremost in caring for the region. The three sessions would concentrate on:

- coastal degradation,
- deforestation,
- solid waste management.

3. Combating exclusion.

Maybe even more than in continental regions of the world, fostering a more inclusive community and integrating all members of society in a care-centred economy to reduce/eradicate homelessness and other forms of economic deprivations becomes a necessity for islanders. The three sessions would concentrate on:

- education,
- homelessness,
- increasing participation and the fiscal covenant.

4. Job creation and income maintenance.

Increasing the wellbeing of people requires increased capacities to self-sustaining. The integration of the informal economy with the formal to promote and secure generation, expansion and development of small enterprises is essential to a sustainable development. The three sessions would concentrate on:

- labour market restructuring,
- tourism and the informal economy,
- youth and the informal economy.

5. Advocating health care.

Promoting and sustaining healthier lifestyles, especially concerning issues of men's health, adolescent reproductive health care, and HIV/AIDS, is fundamental when projecting a better life for all. The three sessions would concentrate on:

- men's health,
- adolescent reproductive health,
- STD/HIV/AIDS.

6. Sustainable development and gender.

Fostering better family life relations and gender equity would also seem a way to ensuring sustainable development. The three sessions would concentrate on:

- boys and the school system,
- structural and legal constraints to gender equity,
- sustainable development and family life.

• Actual sub-themes for the working groups

On the eve of the seminar, however, the organisers decided that three working groups would deal with these 18 sub-themes as follows:

Working Group 1 - 'Security Issues'

- Day 1: Poverty and Violence
- Day 2: Education
Labour Market Restructuring
- Day 3: Men's Health
Boys and the School System

Working Group 2 - 'On-Going Maintenance'

- Day 1: Socialisation away from violence
- Day 2: Homelessness
Tourism and the Informal Economy
- Day 3: Adolescent Reproductive Health
Structural and Legal Constraints to Gender Equity

Working Group 3 - 'Future Care/Sustainability'

- Day 1: Security of Agricultural Incomes
Solid Waste Management
- Day 2: Increasing Participation and the Fiscal Covenant
Youth and the Informal Economy
- Day 3: STD/HIV/AIDS
Sustainable Development and Family Life

In restructuring the themes, the organisers wished, on the one hand, to expose the participants to the geographically and thematically intertwined issues, and, on the other hand, to make up larger groups allowing exchange of substantial information and validation of the debates.

The range revealed itself as too large for the hours set apart for the working groups, taking also into consideration that the seminar took place in an extremely hot month, in rooms or halls that were not always well airconditioned. It was therefore satisfying to see that groups remained unfaltering and even met once in an additional early session.

In the two previous seminars of the Independent Commission, participants who were specialists of a theme, met in the working group where his or her theme was to be discussed, in order to make a step forward in the formulation of local policies in the light of the recommendations of the Commission's report. In the Jamaican seminar and because of its very structure, a learning process took shape on the interrelatedness of the considered themes, as nobody seemed to possess the know-how for these various issues. Nor could the facilitators in their brief introductions present the recommendations of the report in addition to a definition of the different themes, while at the same time observing the group's process.

Some regretted that international relations (the Caribbean-Central American relationship, the future of EU-Caribbean links after Lome IV, etc.) were not explicitly included in the themes.

It has also been regretted that high administration officials and parliamentarians from the political spectrum as well as representatives of non governmental organisations, however active they may be in the region, were underrepresented among the participants.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony at the Social Science Lecture Theatre on the Mona Campus of the University of the West-Indies in Kingston, Jamaica was a very festive moment, brightened by a banner conceived by the artist Michael Gordon, of Kingston, showing the contours of the archipelago surrounded by two hands embracing this world of islands as in a Rodin sculpture.

Behind the table took place Dr. Eng. Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, former Prime Minister of Portugal, the Hon. Errol Ennis, State Minister for Finance in the Jamaican government, Prof. the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West-Indies, Dr Don Robotham, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at the same university, and Dr John Maxwell, Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences, who chaired the event. In the room were present Prof. Emerita Monique Bégin, Commission member, former Minister of Health and Welfare in Canada, Prof. Dragoljub Najman, Advisor to the President of the Independent Commission, former Deputy Director General of Unesco, representatives of foreign States and international institutions, representatives of other Caribbean governments, Jamaican non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions, 'fellow labourers in the vineyard of the Jamaican Government' (according to Mr. Errol Ennis's expression) and - last but not least - the participants in the seminar who came from other islands as far as Trinidad, Santa Lucia, St Kitts, from Guyana, from diverse parts of Jamaica, and from the Kingston area.

Problems we know unfortunately only too well

In the University's name, Dr Don Robotham recalled that the UWI's commitment had been, from the beginning, to address fundamental problems of development and that today, at its fiftieth anniversary, in a different world, this has to continue, in the face of complex challenges, especially in the area of social conditions, economic rights and political development. The university, he said, has to take on leadership on all the issues discussed in 'Caring for the Future' by the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life: inequality, unemployment, violence, environment, population, poverty... 'all problems we know unfortunately only too well'. 'We have mixed results in social justice and we face very serious, very

tough challenges⁴. He therefore invited the participants to use this opportunity and to sit down with the Commission members, 'with whom we share a common ground, to draw from their experience and to consider ways of committing ourselves, in the light of the report's recommendations.'

Asserting quality of life leads to social rights

Dr Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo thanked the University corpus, especially the Centre for Population, Community and Social Change, for its cooperation in the preparation of the seminar. Then she retraced the history of the work of the Commission.

At the beginning of the nineties some governments and multinational organisations and foundations wanted to develop a new way of looking at population problems, by going beyond the way those problems had been approached for decades and by deepening the connection between population and quality of life. This was the start of the Independent Commission, called together from the North and the South, men and women with political experience in the field of health, education and environment. In an original way the Commission decided first to hear the voices of people throughout seven hearings on the different continents, especially the voices of the poor as well as of those who, in civil society, are creating initiatives which, however small, indicate solutions and paths for a more general and systematic approach.

Ms Pintasilgo quoted a participant in the Delhi hearing, and others in the Harare hearing; both had struck the Commission members. The woman in Delhi said that she did not understand all the talk about the role of women and population, 'women', she said, 'have children, they don't have population'. In Zimbabwe, groups of men and women came from the Northern countryside, in buses, to present their social theatre; the banner that they spread out read: 'We deserve a better quality of life'.

It is through the listening process of those hearings that the message of the Commission became clear. First of all, only a systemic approach to population, quality of life, and environment can provide the needed framework for the formulation of population policies, that is to say a holistic approach whereby population policies must be seen as one element of a system embracing all aspects of society and the

4 'Rapid changes are proceeding in the world and in the Jamaican society today. We all have heard at length about the shifts in the economy from the old natural-resource based industries such as sugar and bauxite to the more human-resource based ones such as tourism and financial and computer services. All of us are aware of the dramatic increase in our crime rate and, in particular, our homicide rate which in 1997 climbed, for the first time, above one thousand. We all experience the indiscipline of everyday life, the poor quality of our social services, especially of public transportation. We are aware of the great and growing gap between the rich and the poor and what some people see as the shrinkage of the middle class. All throughout the society there is a feeling that selfishness and self-centredness prevail and that most people operate from a me-first principle. Perhaps the most striking and the least spoken about aspect of the changes has to do with the rapid growth in the urbanisation of Jamaican society'. in Dr Don Robotham. Vision and voluntarism. Reviving voluntarism in Jamaica. The Grace, Kennedy Foundation, 1998, p. 1.

quality of life.⁵ Adopting a holistic view would eliminate divergences between the importance given by the North or the South to questions of fertility control, immigration or others by subsuming all such parameters within the single concept of quality-of-life. A holistic view of demographic transition transcends any simplistic notion that a solution rests solely on stabilization of the global population. The Commission's integrating view emphasizes, instead, all the processes that affect the quality of life.

However, quality of life is not a new abstract concept. The term 'quality of life' must be given an operational meaning, beyond the confines of subjectivity. Civil and political rights cannot be exercised fully unless social and economic rights are fulfilled. There must be a balance between civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic and social rights on the other. Just as a complex of pressures has worked for civil and political rights, so can they work on behalf of economic and social rights. Asserting quality of life can become a force to end poverty because it is the poor, the vulnerable and the powerless who are most often denied their rights.

Another Independent Commission working on 'Our Common Future' has coined the term 'sustainability' as the basis of the survival of the environment, of society and its individuals, and of their economies. The one working on 'Our Global Neighbourhood' researched new ways of 'governance' by the multiple actors in society. For this Independent Commission, the quality of life, and any improvement in this quality, must be sustainable, which is an important dimension of humanity's caring capacity. The degradation of our environment threatens the quality of our life and is a challenge to our ability to stay within the carrying capacity of the planet's habitans.

In the context of a global market, where national borders collapse, in the hands of anonymous players who are not accountable to anybody, a strong State is necessary, while building up global mechanisms, on the condition that equity be the basic principle to be respected. We urgently need a new synthesis, a new balance among the various forces that we call market, society, environment, efficiency and equity, wealth and welfare; a new balance between, on the one hand, economic growth and on the other, social harmony and sustainable improvement in the quality of life. We need new concepts, new instruments to enable governments to regulate markets, and sound finance so that markets will not jeopardize humankind's survival. We need a new equilibrium capable of creating harmony among different age-groups throughout the ongoing democratic transition, between humans and Nature, between the created world and the differing forms of spiritual energy that surround and sustain our world.

Ms Pintasilgo then quoted the famous statement of Mahatma Gandhi, that appears as the deepest expression of the Commission's intentions and that is proposed as the motto for all political action, local, national and international: 'When you are deciding a matter, have the picture before you of the poorest man you have met and ask if the decision will help him. If the answer is in the affirmative, take the decision without hesitation.'⁶

The Hon. Errol Ennis conveyed the greetings of the Government of Jamaica. Before reading an official policy statement describing the National Population Policy to which the Jamaican Government has been committed since 1983, he showed his

personal interest in the issue of quality of life, as 'a Caribbean man (and) the descendant of a long line of ancestors, the earlier members of which were residents of other parts of the planet'. In his opinion the Jamaican Government would have essentially made the paradigm shift to which the Commission's report refers.



We have been unable to make sense of the inter-connectedness of one with the other...

One of the highlights of the opening ceremony was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's keynote address. Prof. Nettleford, author, educator, trade unionist and dancer, is considered as quintessentially Caribbean and generally promulgated as a 'Renaissance man' because of his many gifts. Regarded as a leading authority on intercultural development, he is also the founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the worldwide acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica.

Referring to the famous saying of a Jamaican politician 'it takes cash to care', the speaker sees the conference as rightly timed, as 'increasing bodies of opinion are seized of the fact that it really takes mind, spirit and a quality of vision to muster the creative energies to generate the cash needed to care'. Therefore 'the building of civic society' is needed, so that real people benefit from this care.

Our agenda of concerns, says Mr Nettleford, coincides with the Commission's aims and statements. Throughout Caribbean history, caring for its future was its major challenge by ensuring *freedom from want* (nowadays described as the alleviation or eradication of poverty), *freedom from disease* (meaning the whole issue of easy access to inexpensive healthcare not only for men and boys but also for girls and women especially in their reproductive years, as well as for the aged), *freedom from ignorance* (the access by the mass of the population to good, relevant, mind-enhancing education), and 'that great freedom that speaks to the humanity of all regardless of race, gender, religious beliefs or political persuasion - *freedom from fear*'. The challenge of social transformation has been there all the time, says Prof. Nettleford, 'for the past 200 years moving from slavery (which too many prefer to forget) to freedom (taken for granted by us who are the beneficiaries), from colonialism to independence'.

The keynote speaker thinks that caring for the future must place the individual back at the centre of the cosmos. 'The threatened dehumanisation of humanity with individuals losing, or being deprived of, any sense of place or purpose, has to do with the disjuncture between economics and politics on the one hand, and cultural unity on the other.' 'Culture, he says quoting Carlos Fuentes, is the form through which each one of us produces answers to the challenges of existence.' The success of an economy alone does not spell the success of a society. Equity, social justice, individual rights and freedom, housing, health care and education should remain high on the priority lists of human development. 'We have, indeed, been unable to make sense of the interconnectedness of one with the other. We have too often sought to implement models of development that seldom relate to cultural reality - the cradle of that caring of which the report of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life so eloquently speaks'.

5 Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 143.

6 Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 26.

CARIBBEAN VOICES: ECHOES FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

• Out of Africa

A group reported that the discrepancy between the 'high' (associated with the Anglo-Saxon better way) and the 'low' culture (for those dominantly of African descent) 'colours every aspect of dealing with issues'. Someone asked: 'When do I stop heralding my African heritage and think Jamaican?'

Several participants represented organisations like the Universal African Improvement Association, highlighting the African origin of the black majority and the history of slavery and exploitation, still omnipresent it seemed in the Caribbean psyche.

Their attention is drawn to the working conditions of the slaves and the plantation economy, rather than to the colonial heritage, nostalgia for tourists.

In recent 'dub poetry' which has a built-in reggae rhythm, one finds the same presence of deep reminiscences. Mutabaruka (born in 1952) says in 'white sound':

(...)
*everytime I hear the sound
 everytime I hear the sound
 the sound that sounds like:
 remember nigger remember
 the sound that sounds like:
 the whelps on your back
 the sound that sounds like:*

*the chains round your neck
 the sound that sounds like:
 who raped your progenitors
 the sound that sounds like:
 who practised genocide on your people
 the sound that sounds like:
 who divided your race
 stole your culture
 (...)*

• Political and social violence

In the Caribbean, societal violence exists at very varying degrees depending on each country.

Jamaica is sadly known for escalating violence, especially since the eighties when political violence claimed many lives. As far as violence is concerned, Kingston ranks among the top ten cities in the Americas⁷. Because of urbanisation other centres with similar 'bright lights and fast food' are equally touched by the same spiral of violence. The violence comes out of misery and crack

houses, is fed by drugs and illicit weapons import and is 'handled' by powerful gangs with political influence. The 'exportation of crime' by the U.S. from where Caribbean prisoners have been sent home, coincides with new forms of delinquency, unknown until now in the region.

There exists a marked difference, says one group, between the way the security forces deal with 'policing' in the low income as compared to middle class communities. A certain level of violence is accepted as the norm. In middle class homes domestic violence, corporal punishment in homes and schools, physical spouse abuse, is mostly covered up, but tends to be publicised in lower income classes. Inherently, class biases redefine violence!

Violence however is not only individual; it takes its roots also in militarization by States and communities (the latter being particularly common in the Jamaican context), where they structure themselves as defense systems to prevent invasion and violence from other communities. Political violence in inner city ghettos involve the role of dons (Jamaica), community vigilante groups (Trinidad) and gangs (Jamaica). The drug culture is breeding violence. 'Our countries are being used as transshipment ports. The use of dons and the young as pushers exacerbates both crime and violence'.

The group's analysis sees one of the reasons for this violence in the lack of equity in the distribution of basic amenities - water, light, health, work, nutrition, in one word, in the poverty of these areas. Because resources, land, money are not distributed equitably, ghettos and squatter settlements come into being. Another group stresses the same source leading to homelessness and squatting: the development paradigm is so much focused on goods consuming that income differences become crucial. 'Violence will escalate here because of economic and political inequalities', 'Economic disparities are a form of violence': this perception, this anxiety, apparently as lively on an island such as Dominica as in Jamaica, was undoubtedly running throughout the whole conference.

The group recommends the development of more caring communities, the strengthening of family structures, more funds to restructure the educational system, building communities to be economically more viable. They see also the need for more care-giving in State operations. The focus, they say, should be on poor urban and rural communities, on groups at risk, such as teenagers, the elderly, and sex workers. They mentioned also people incarcerated in the penal system.

A second basic perspective would be opened through the demilitarization of State and communities. The allocation of resources should be shifted from the military to other sectors: this would then have a positive impact on health, education and protection of the environment.

7 Mutabaruka. 'white sound', in : From Our Yard : Jamaican Poetry Since Independence. Ed. by Pamela Mordecai. Institute of Jamaica Publications, 1994, p. 189.

8 They cry 'respect!'. Urban violence and poverty in Jamaica. Centre for Population, Community and Social Change. Department of Sociology and Social Work. University of the West Indies, Mona. Kingston, Jamaica. 1996, p. VII.

A group sees the necessity to deal with class, race and sexual prejudices as the only way to get to the bottom of this problem which unsettles Jamaican self-understanding. One way may be to review land distribution policies. People of African descent especially are still very much economically behind, because they have never received access to capital and economic opportunities: no land or money was given to them at the Emancipation. 'Caribbean people have always been landless. What is this question of squatting all about? The majority of people have never owned land'. Land security of tenure, is power. Five acres would be the minimum. So people squat on land...until they are being moved, as the government does not have the political will to act in favour of the poor and discriminated persons'. The group suggests not to remove them, but to incorporate them into development plans, both residential and commercial. This is in particular necessary in areas of tourism, where economically viable systems should be put into place for people to become part of them.

There was also a call to become 'peacemakers'.

- **Racial discrimination and work**

Gordon S.L. Payne (Guyana) discussed the report's statement on work, as 'central to quality of life'.⁹

In Guyana, he said, paid labour is still most often equated with work. This should not be, but the reality of the situation is that it is still so. Thus simply observing a task will not serve as an accurate guide as to whether it will count as work or not. What is crucial is the context within which the activity takes place. Any attempt therefore to define work for such a society must be based on efforts to induce attitude change within the society.

'In my country we still regard the poor man who offers to wash our car, as a 'lazy bum', and many are the cries of 'why yuh so damn lazy, go and look fuh wuk nah'. The point I'm making is that even though you will pay him for washing the car, which will provide for him some income, yet unless he does this on a regular basis, and washes not only your car, but many other cars, he is still regarded as a 'lazy bum'.'

The essential question is: who determines who works and who does not? 'What happens if a government of a country excludes from work large groups of people who may not be their supporters? They systematically exclude them from work, and refuse to award contracts to members of this group, thereby making them unable to earn a livelihood, and thus improve their quality of life. In small societies like Guyana this problem assumes gargantuan proportions and can ultimately lead to civil unrest. In both the public and private sector in Guyana, one is dependent on the perception of the employer that the potential employee is a member of an 'out group'. Ultimately, members of such excluded groups refuse to make the necessary efforts to secure skills and/or qualifications which could possibly ensure their employment.

Even participants in the informal economy, Mr Payne said, need to have access to economic resources (finance) which is often

disbursed through government agencies or agencies set up with the 'blessings' of governments. In Guyana, he said, access to such resources is denied to groups which are viewed as 'out groups' by those dispensing such resources. Attitudes can change through the education system. 'However, there is little doubt that in our societies the ability to secure employment can be and often is dependent on the whims and fancies of those in power. In a society like Guyana's, there is an urgent need for Constitutional Reform, together with addressing the problem of racial discrimination which can impact negatively on the quality of life of members of the society'.

- **Social indicators in statistics**

Mr Matthew Ramsaroop presented his viewpoint on the evolution of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in Trinidad-and-Tobago¹⁰. During the period 1950-1991/3, approximately 70-75 per cent of CSO's resources were utilised in the production of economic statistics, 12-15 per cent on administration and support services and 10 per cent on social statistics. It must be noted that this resource distribution changed significantly every tenth year to facilitate the planning and execution of the Population and Housing Census. There is now an urgent need to give the production of social statistics an equal importance similar to economic statistics. In this perspective the CSO of Trinidad and Tobago is working in collaboration with governmental agencies (the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Community, Social Welfare and Women Affairs) with a view to identifying the principal social indicators that are required for planning and policy formulation at both the regional and national levels. The social indicators would be based on the basic social indicators recommended by the UN related organisations.

- **Increasing the Security of Agricultural Incomes**

For several islands of the Caribbean, bananas are as important as cars are for Detroit, USA. Recent decisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) expressing opposition to the preferential tariffs of the European Union's banana import policies are a threat for tens of thousands of small banana producers, especially on Dominica, Santa Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada. Once the ruling is implemented, producers in the region will no longer be able to sell at a price covering their cost.

The case was brought to the WTO by the United States after US-based banana marketing companies (like Chiquita and Dole) complained they were losing business because of advantages enjoyed by the European Union (EU) importers of the fruit. The US complaint was backed by countries like Ecuador - the world's largest banana producer -, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, whose production costs on large plantations are much lower than those of the mainly small farmers in the Caribbean.

Participants criticized the fact that this kind of decisions are made by the U.S. and other countries, without any actual participation of the producing countries of the Caribbean themselves 'whose representatives have to wait in the corridors'.

⁹ Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 146.

¹⁰ Population of African descent 39.6%, population of East Indian descent 40.3% (1990), Statistics at a Glance 1996. Central Statistical Office. Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, p. 3.

Alexis Armstrong, from Santa Lucia, feared that the new trading system would be in favour of the economically powerful. A certain number of these farmers are tempted to convert themselves to marijuana plantation or cocaine traffic or to join the ranks of illegal immigrants to the U.S. (almost 40 per cent of the cocaine sold in the U.S. transits through the Caribbean islands).

In general, the islands have always exported agrarian products to the industrialised world and imported industrial goods. They produce goods that they do not use and they use good that they don't produce. Such open economies are very sensitive to price changes and unequal trade conditions.

In spite of problems in the sugar and banana industry, agriculture (and fishing) makes possible the living of hundreds of thousands of people.

Participants were extremely in favour of labour market restructuring in agriculture through land reform and the introduction of new technology into the sector. Through agro-processing, earnings can be increased. 'Rationalize the agricultural sector! The way it is done will make the difference'. But 'how to leap from subsistence to agro-industry, to sustainability?' There are in Jamaica 4 agricultural schools, a rural agricultural development agency (RADA), etc., and yet 'the farmer does not benefit from it', agricultural incomes are varied, but they are low overall, cash income is low, no subsidies go to primary producers. In Jamaica 60 per cent of the poor live in rural areas, on small lots from where they supply the domestic market only for part of the year. 'It is more profitable to trade in local or imported foods'.

What incentives could be given to the young so that they enter or remain in agriculture? A stigma remains attached to agricultural work. Paradoxically, middlemen are young, farmers older. 'Agriculture is something to do when there is nothing else to do'. An important change would come from making the young farmers 'bankable' so that they receive loans.

The group wants farmers to produce different crops and to develop 'niche markets' with, for instance, papayas or mangoes. A suggestion to cope with the effect of globalisation is to reinforce the inter-Caribbean linkages in order to learn from each other.

• Tourism

It seems clear that Jamaica cannot be satisfied with its tourism performance. In spite of the continuing embargo, Cuba has as many visitors as Jamaica has. Last year, 1.1 million visitors came to Jamaica, with gross earnings from the sector being a little more than US\$1 billion. Growth numbers are modest, in particular because of the phenomenon of frequent visitor harassment, even on the strip of Knutsford Avenue where some of the main hotels are located.

• Participation instead of exclusion

Participants described Caribbean structures as engendering division and exclusion. They wondered how to modify them so as to increase participation. There was the willingness to break down barriers of youth exclusion, of ethnic and gender exclusion. Is it possible, asked a participant, to 'dive up' rather than to dive down into the community? The status and the criteria of political representation limit the acceptability of some candidates, even if they are supported by the community. There is a need for villages and communities to have a say. This supposes a greater sense of community.

• Boys and the school system

For one group there is clearly the need for more and better equipped facilities to satisfy present, future and special needs for education and training. Forward planning should be facilitated at the primary and secondary levels, so that pupils and students be early acquainted with computers and agricultural skills. The technological advances should be part of the retraining of the population. 'Popular cultural icons' should be used to convey messages of change: DJ's, singers, sportsmen, use of drama, poetry, music. Traditional methods of training could include meeting target groups in their own environmental setting.

The education system in the Caribbean has become increasingly irrelevant to boys. The University of the West-Indies itself is frequented by more than 70 per cent women. The teachers in the education system are also preponderantly female teachers. In some countries of the Caribbean there is evidence of parental preference for girls over boys. The numbers of abandoned male children far exceed those of girls; female children are far more readily adopted.¹¹

Boys are very early dropouts, falling prey of gangs, including the drug networks.

The group studying this reality mentioned first the fact that approximately 42 per cent of the Jamaica's households are headed by females. They also thought that there is no strong male influence of fathers in the family structure. The family is 'matrifocal'. The title of Edith Clarke's classic study of the family is: 'My Mother Who Fathered Me'. Girls, it seems, are socialised both at home and at school, and stimulated to learn something, to obtain diplomas and to get a job, whereas the boys are left alone to play around, without being controlled, or underachieve their performance in school compared with the girls. The group mentioned also the gender bias across areas of skills and professions (teachers, mechanics, construction workers).

Recommendations were:

- a new emphasis on family life education, males being its focus, tackling in particular the absenteeism of fathers at home;
- a shift in the ways boys are socialised to ensure more control and focus for them;
- a reduction in sex typing in training.

11 Janet Brown and Barry Chevannes. 'Why man stay so'. An examination of gender socialization in the Caribbean. University of the West Indies. Kingston, Jamaica. 1998

- **Gender equity and family life
'Caribbean men need their
own gender agenda'**

Although no group had the time to work specifically on this issue, the theme permeated many conversations and remarks in different contexts. In the perspective of a stabilisation of family life, men need a new identity that is no longer limited to the provider role. In a society where men play a marginal role and have been challenged in many sectors of power and authority, 'Caribbean men need their own gender agenda'. While traditionally the role of the father is to provide the money needed to bring up the child and 'to mind the child', this role should be expanded and include more caring and openly showing of affection to their children.

In a statement to the media, Fathers' Day was presented as a day about loving, sharing and caring.

In this context a group studied the lack of focus on the health needs of men as well as the male negative attitude towards their own health. The group asked for one single health system that would give equity in addressing the health care needs of both male, female and infants, not ignoring the special needs of each category or group at risk.

Another group studied the HIV infection which is spreading rapidly among Caribbean youth. The presence of HIV makes sexual and drug-taking behaviour particularly dangerous. A survey among 1,500 youth in Trinidad and Tobago found that among those who had previously engaged in sexual intercourse, 51.5 per cent of the males and 53.1 per cent of the females felt that they were not at risk. The same study showed evidence of the onset of early sexual intercourse, beginning at ages 11-12 rising to age 16 which was the median age. Some 28.5 per cent respondents reported having sexual intercourse with older men, while 23.9 per cent admitted having sexual intercourse with more than one partner. The group thinks that this theme needs a radical agenda.

- **The ethics of environment**

A group starts with the diagnostic: deposit of waste and refuse into the sea by large businesses such as hotels, unregulated or illegal sandmining and undermining of coastline and riverbanks with resulting flooding, reef destruction through settlements along the coast, seepage from pit latrines in rural areas, removal of grout barriers, hence causing land erosion, destruction of ecosystem through pollution and the use of pesticides which, in the sea, reduces fish life as well as coral reef, poor agricultural practices, nuclear waste passing through Caribbean coasts etc. The causes are too often the lack of civic responsibility, the notion that the environment belongs to no one, the lack of caring for each other and one's communities.

It is essential to secure an environmentally sustainable development, protection, conservation, and management of Jamaica's marine and coastal environment, including the beaches, cays, coral reefs, wetlands and sea grass beds which are vital to the fisheries and to a better protection against storms

and hurricanes. This environment should be kept free from pollution.

To actively support watershed management and reforestation programmes, trees and shrubs should be planted and nurtured so as to continuously enjoy them in the 'Land of Wood and Water'.

Good conservation also means proper disposal of waste, recycling, re-using and reducing waste. Forest products, water and marine resources should be used no faster than their ability to regenerate themselves.

The group wanted the State to secure suitable land for use by the poor classes. They insisted upon increased employment of environmentally sound agricultural, manufacturing and commercial practices and processes. Above all law enforcement is necessary on zoning with strict monitoring.

But even if the government has launched a beach policy, an integrated oceans and coastal zone policy, regulatory tools for the development of new enterprises and the discharge of sewage in Jamaica and its territorial waters, information has to be extensively disseminated and not only through government slots in the media. The use of popular culture is important in reaching the youth. The school should be used to educate the young in environment management. 'The school is isolated as a bastion of ethics and morals. The community offers no support for these values. There must be a comparable effort on the part of the community and of the school. 'Quality of life must be linked with moral standards, ethics, social values'.

The importance of oceans was highlighted by Ambassador the Hon. Don Mills, member of the Independent Commission on Oceans. The theme for this year's World Environment Day, 'For life on earth: save our sea', is an appeal for everyone to protect one of the planet's most valuable resources: the oceans. Oceans comprise more than 70 per cent of the earth's surface. Nearly two-thirds of humanity (about 3.5 billion people) inhabit coastal areas and depend on coastal marine environment for their livelihood. Twenty years from now, this population is expected to reach seven billion. With changing land patterns due to the pressures of an ever-increasing population, with the development of industries, with the massive use of agro-chemicals, the oceans have reached the limit of their capacity to assimilate the waste generated by human activities.

Faced with natural hazards, in particular hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes in some cases, and a devastating volcano on one island, Montserrat, the Caribbean countries have been learning to cope with such eventualities. With their fragile eco-systems and small economies, they must now seek to deal with the possibilities associated with continuing global warming which could result in climate change and sea level rise. In this context Ambassador Mills recalled that the English speaking Caribbean countries have played an important part in the establishment and the work of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) which came into existence during the preparation for the U.N. Conference on the Environment in Rio. AOSIS is a strong advocate of the establishment, under the U.N. Convention of Climate Change, of fixed targets and timetables for the reduction of gases coming in particular from the burning of fossil fuels.

• The cause of caring

As many participants had not received or read the report before the conference, the detail of its recommendations, its general inspiration and its main conclusions had to be discovered before thorough discussions could take place.

Some participants, however, speaking from the field of their competence, were able to react to the report's recommendations.

Patricia Mohammed, head and lecturer at the Mona University Centre for Gender and Development Studies, is convinced of the necessity to find an 'improved security for a more liveable world'¹². The implications of rethinking and reshaping this recommendation, she thinks, inform all the others cited in 'Caring for the Future'. The major threat is to human life - male and female both. The redirection of resources spent/wasted on militarization, etc. can assist in other areas and can also 'establish a basis for greater optimism, hope and 'caring' among different peoples - for each other, for their own futures.

Lurline Hosang, from the Social Development Commission, in Hanover, Jamaica, enumerates as the report's features the preoccupation for improved security, the challenge of the agricultural feeding capacity, the new understanding of population, and the fact that humanity has no limits to its 'caring capacity'. These factors, she says, are truly dealing with her concerns and 'they must be put into action at once'. 'As you are aware, countries differ, but we can all come together to champion the cause of caring and try to bring about a better 'quality of life'.

Suzan Philips, a student at the University of the West-Indies is for the decriminalization of abortion¹³. 'While I believe abortion should not be seen as a method of contraception, it is the right of every woman to have access to that option. Its unavailability produces risk and is a grave injustice against the basic human rights of women as equal members of the society.'

Hubert Hogg, from the Social Development Commission in Montego Bay, Jamaica, is concerned by the challenge of job creation and income maintenance, because people will not be empowered if they have no access to income, employment and skills training. His main objective in the field is to achieve social and economic development.

Recalling the participation of many government workers in this conference, Dr Patricia Anderson, who oversaw the planning of

the working groups, stressed the importance the report attributes to government in the economy and in society in shaping our future.

• A call for integrated policies for action

Ambassador Don Mills, the former Jamaica's Permanent Representative to the U.N., underlined in his statement the Independent Commission's approach of 'interdisciplinary knowledge, an inter-sectoral grasp of problems, integrated policies of action'. He too, throughout his career as a statistician, demographer and finally ambassador, has understood, he said, the full significance of the fragmentation and the danger of the 'mentality of specialisation' which 'remains widespread and functions as a dike against new thinking, new ways of acting'¹⁴. Especially 'the emergence of the environment issue and the concept of sustainable development have helped to expose these deficiencies and the institutional inadequacies which are associated with them'.

Successive Independent Commissions and the various world conferences organized by the U.N. on subjects such as population, women, human settlements, food, environment, development and social issues, involving extensive participation across the world, are a great effort to help to create a world which offers a secure and satisfying life for its ever increasing population. 'It is for us here in the Caribbean to draw the benefits on a continuing basis from all this'.

The populations of the Caribbean, he said, have spent much of their energy on the search for survival, for liberation, for security - and for development. In the face of major hardships they have managed to make significant progress in the establishment and maintenance of democratic political systems, and in sustaining a vibrant culture. 'More and more they must meet the challenges presented by an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world, a world not particularly hospitable to very small nations, and by the insistent call for opportunity, for equity, for the elimination of poverty, the achievement of a better balance between population and resources, and simultaneously, the achievement of sustainability'.

12 Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 188.

13 Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 224.

14 Caring for the Future. op.cit. Preface, p. V.

REACTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

• 'It takes cash to care': a global tax

According to the organizers the ambition of the conference was not to be limited to the elaboration of policy orientations or to raising an awareness that everyone has a role in influencing policies. As one said: 'While we are doing this, what happens at Wall Street?' What will be the economic substratum of our 'radical agenda for positive change'?

Mr Dragoljub Najman, adviser to the President of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, was therefore invited to comment the now famous saying: 'It takes cash to care!'

The Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, he said, had been from the beginning of its activities concerned with the question of finding ways and means by which the very proposals which the Commission would be forwarding in its report could be eventually financed. In asking where the necessary resources would come from, the Commission showed a rare degree of responsibility: too often, conferences or working groups study an issue, calculate the costs, before noticing that there is no money! It is indeed irresponsible to sow hope for change without being able to implement its ingredients.

In the course of its work, the Independent Commission established clearly the fact that the problems concerning population and quality of life would not be resolved by addressing only population problems, but by addressing a whole series of areas, like education, employment, health, and others. All these areas require financing.

The international financing needs for global-priority programmes that have been internationally agreed are considerable. Mr Najman mentioned some examples:

- the population programme developed at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), costs: 17 billion dollars,
- water and sanitation for all at the World Summit for Children, 1990, costs: 50 billion dollars in 10 years,
- shelter for the homeless at the Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, costs: 25 billion dollars,
- AIDS programmes of the WHO, costs: 5 billion dollars a year,
- programme for literacy and generalised primary education, UNESCO, costs: 50 billion dollars in 10 years,
- the programmes of the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, costs 125 billion dollars.

All these figures come from the assessment of costs of implementation of internationally agreed (for instance by the UN General Assembly) programmes.

Since 1970 the target of 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) of industrialised countries to be devoted to the Office for Development Assistance (ODA) -comprising both bilateral and multilateral funding - has been reaffirmed in many discussions, with varying degrees of commitment. The total of ODA should therefore lead to an amount of 140 billion dollars a year, which is three times more than the actual ODA today.

The total international debt of developing countries amounts to 2,500 billion dollars. The servicing of the debt amounts to 250 billion dollars.

Because of the magnitude of the amounts needed, it is clear that this money cannot possibly come from budgets either from the rich countries or from the developing or poor countries. This was what led the Commission to look for solutions elsewhere.

The starting point of their reflection lies in the revolution of globalisation, transforming whole societies. Communication and information technology intensify economic interdependence on a world scale. Global currency transactions increased threefold between 1986 and 1992: the wild swings in exchange value between currencies produce enormous international monetary capital transactions. At the same time, this revolution requires some form of global management or global taxation. 'The world urgently needs new mechanisms for funding the global priorities'¹⁵.

In fact, many suggestions have been put forward in recent years for novel mechanisms meant for global fund-raising: levies on air line tickets and on aviation fuel (3 dollars per 100 km, leading to 74 billion dollars a year), on the allocation of telecommunication frequencies, levies on the trade of weaponry and arms, charge on international maritime transfers, taxes on international commerce in goods and services, levies of 1 dollar per barrel of oil (bringing in 70 billion dollars), special drawing rights (SDR) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Because of the fluctuating currencies on the world market, James Tobin, the Nobel laureate, proposed, in 1972, a tax on foreign exchange with the aim to calm down the volatile market. Resources could be used for global priorities.

Last year the turnover in foreign exchange markets alone totalled 1,200 billion dollars in 24 hours, which means that the total value of the US GNP of 7,000 billion dollars passes through foreign exchange markets in 5, 6 days. One year later, the same market soared to 1,600 billion dollars in 24 hours.

If the foreign exchange market were taxed, money would immediately be transferred to other international markets - those of securities and bonds, stock-shares, and derivatives. For this reason, the Commission recommends that a charge should be levied on all international markets simultaneously.

15 Caring for the Future. op.cit. p. 278.

If the levy were fixed at a rate of 0.01 per cent of each transaction, the potential yield is estimated to exceed \$400 billion annually, to be used, in part, for domestic needs in countries where those markets are and, in part, for commonly agreed international programs. The fee charged would have to be collected by national central banks, and a new international authority would have to be created to administer the funds.

This levy could only work if applied universally. No single country could impose a levy on any market, because the money would immediately flee elsewhere. 'Either we do it all together in a spirit of solidarity to reach the objectives formally agreed upon by the UN Assembly, or we will have to wait for crises to come, one after the other'.

Those measures would not be solely in the interest of the poor or the rich: they would cover programmes which are useful for everybody, because the issues of environment, disarmament, etc. concern the whole world.

None of the financial experts consulted by the Commission considered this proposal as impossible. Various political bodies today (Britain, France) have mentioned similar perspectives. Clearly, political will and care are needed to create such a global tax.

- **A new paradigm: social policies at the core of public policy**

Towards the end of the conference, the Canadian Commission member, Prof. Monique Bégin, former Minister of Health and Social Welfare and former Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences in Ottawa, was asked to react to what she had heard and understood during the three days.

Prof. Bégin started her remarks with a comment on the so-called lack of radicality of the report, formulated by a participant. It is true, she said, that the report does not offer glamorous or fashionable concepts that would easily seduce people. Its first reading gives the impression of a certain 'banality': it all concerns issues of daily life, of family, and of local community, and speaks of all those realities that we take very often for granted but that are the very tissue of our lives. In fact, the report's radicality, said Ms Bégin, lies in the shift in policies the report is propagating: 'Social policies are as important as economic policies, today considered to be decisive, they are even at the core of what public policy is all about'. As an example she recalled contacts with her counterparts in Canada in the different provinces. In their meetings, the provincial ministers emphasised how much they found themselves at the bottom of the power structure. While being in charge of the daily life of the people, of housing, immigration, welfare, culture, health and education, there seemed to reign an unwritten clear hierarchy between these 'non-productive' dimensions of national life and the ones concerned with technology, economy, defence, planning, foreign affairs.

Ms Bégin spoke of the brutal destruction of social facilities in Great Britain and in the United States over the past decades, and through a more subtle erosion in Canada as well. To give an idea of the magnitude of change, she mentioned the 'downsizing' of hospitals in Canada, where 900 hospitals have been reduced to 150-200 and thousands of nurses lost work. Ordinary people's lives, families, communities are being destroyed in a damageable way, even if the process seems to be less confrontational and less dramatic in Canada than in the US and Great Britain.

Fundamentally, social well-being is attributed less importance in the 'trickle down' economic theory - according to which the deregulation and the privatisation process will gradually allow for even the poor to be reached, as their benefits will 'trickle down' to them. Would we be so accustomed to this theory, so submissive to the impossibility of coming up with new programmes in the absence of available money that we are losing a certain sense of urgency?, she wondered.

Ms Monique Bégin criticised the 'passive mode or mood' of so many and warned that our thinking in abstract categories (for instance, speaking of 'low income people' instead of 'the poor') should not dilute the vitality of our indignation in the face of absolute poverty. Here she saw also the radicality of the report: to demand urgent political action there where 1.3 billion people on earth live in absolute poverty, where around 1 billion people are out of reach of the basic health services and where some 1.3 billion must drink unclean water, while 1.9 are without even rudimentary sanitation¹⁶.

Globalisation and liberalisation are not removing the barriers between rich and poor. The benefits of increased production and expansion of global trade have been most unevenly spread. According to the latest statistics from the Planning Institute of Jamaica, more than one in every four Jamaicans are living on less than 2 US dollars per day.

- **Challenges of the Caribbean's future**

When we consider the history of the problems of race, class, and the struggle for freedom, physical, economic and political, and for status, we can see that these issues have played a major role in the development of relationships from slavery until the very day. The essential change is that power, class and status have replaced power, race and control.

But the lot of the mass of the people, almost one third of whom live below the poverty line, has not changed significantly. After Emancipation they were compelled to find their own employment, create their own culture, and eke out an existence on the margins of society. In the view of some highly respected historians, this marginalisation was the result of a conspiracy between the ruling elite and the middle class who have always aspired to claim equality with the elite, to manipulate the economic and political process so as to maintain the status quo. Today, there are many who believe that the mass of the ordinary people on the margins of society,

forced to live in squalor and misery, who have again created their own employment, often illegal and associated with violence, and who have created their own set of values and attitudes which are viewed as being anti-social, are victims of the same conspiracy.¹⁷

Ms Bégin then enumerated a few challenges of the Caribbean's future as she had understood them, while taking part in a working group and listening to the reports in the plenaries. She wanted simply to mirror those challenges from the point of view of her knowledge of the Canadian scene.

First of all, she said, she was struck by the challenge of the pernicious effect of the production and consumption of illicit drugs and the proliferation of small arms smuggled into the region, leading to a spread of crime and violence.

Many youths who have dropped out of school, who are unemployed, who want to make a lot of money in a short space of time, see more resemblances between the music Don, drug Don or gun Don and themselves than between themselves and the teacher, the minister of religion, the business executive. (...)

Food and shelter for the body, ganja for the brain: these are the only goals of our children of the street. Survival being the only wisdom means they steal, grab, fight for what they want. There is no inner desire for nobility, no search for spiritual qualities. Just physical existence and physical pleasure and the response to the variety of goods that don't last. For this, the children of the streets will kill.¹⁸

Making reference to her own country of which large parts are uninhabited because of the climate, Prof. Bégin pointed out the apparent fragmentation of relatively small populations in the Caribbean over many islands, in spite of the sub-regional networks like CARICOM and often informal trade contacts between the islands. For instance, she said, the health care system in the Caribbean would be less expensive if there wasn't a two-tier system between the private and the public sectors, but a more unified approach. This is true also, she said, for educational issues like the need to change methods of teaching, mentioned in the working groups.

The Commission member used also the example of Canada - which scores as number 1 in the Human Development Report of the UN - to mirror the problems in the Caribbean of cultural identity and of conflictual ethnic and racial relationships between different population groups. The world has become a global village, she said. Recently, statistics proved that the majority of the population of Toronto, biggest city in Canada, is non-white. This leads to major changes in one's national identity. In the face of race and colour and class differences, how can you find your own identity in the Caribbean?

The question that we face is whether or not there is a way to recognize a leading role for our African heritage while at the same time recognizing the very positive role played by European, Indian, Chinese, Lebanese and other cultures and peoples. Is it possible to have a Black Nationalism which is not exclusionist? Can we have national pride and not insular and chauvinistic? These are the questions that go to the heart of the instability of Jamaica today and which have to be publicly asked and answered if we are ever to have a united and prosperous Jamaica in which violence and social turmoil are no longer the order of the day. This is at the heart of the problem of vision which Jamaica faces.¹⁹

Furthermore, Ms Bégin had been shocked to see in the formulation of the working group themes an emphasis on men rather than on women, as though it weren't women against whom discrimination is perpetrated. Around the globe men have lost their unique provider role which gave them a masterly status, their authority being linked with economic dominance; men and women now have to learn to share the provider job and, in this way to support the family unit, whatever new forms this family may need to assume.

Although Caribbean women have been exploring publicly and privately the implications of worldwide and local challenges to patriarchy, Caribbean men have rarely been brought into this process. Only a few have examined the multiple meanings implicit in the concept of gender equality. However, more and more men are realizing that traditional roles and expectations for men can be oppressive. They narrow and confine manhood and they limit the exercise of many natural instincts such as openly showing affection to children. They have to devise their own priorities for change.²⁰

Finally, Ms Bégin quoted a 'subversive' idea contained in the report that can be practised on every imaginable level as a tool of action, in a country or parish (region), between countries of the Caribbean, etc.: a quality of life audit establishing an evaluation of the quality of life through, for instance, an annual report card.²¹ It would be particularly important to measure income inequality and gender inequality. This evaluation can be done by ordinary people and by most NGOs, so that certain facts and situations beyond the realm of emotions could be identified for urgent action more than ever needed.

In his response, the chairman of the closing session, Dr Barrington Chevannes, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, confirmed how much the challenges mentioned by Prof. Monique Bégin are real challenges. To mention them, he said, struck a very responsive chord among the participants.

17 Lucien Jones. The Jamaican Society. Options for renewal. Grace, Kennedy Foundation Lecture 1995, p. 29.

18 Elsa Leo-Rhynie. The Jamaican family. Continuity and change. Grace, Kennedy Foundation Lecture, 1993. pp. 39, 46

19 Don Robotham. Vision and Voluntarism. Reviving voluntarism in Jamaica. Grace, Kennedy Foundation Lecture, 1998. pp. 59-60

20 Janet Brown and Barry Chevannes. 'Why man stay so'. An examination of gender socialization in the Caribbean. University of the West Indies. Kingston, Jamaica. 1998. Introduction.

21 Caring for the Future. op. cit. p. 291.

- **'Take care of your wonderful region'**

The President of the Independent Commission was then invited to give a few informal final remarks.

In a stirring speech, Dr Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo told how often during the conference her eyes came back to the image of the banner: two hands surrounding the whole archipelago.

First of all, the image evoked for her the sense of protection. The water we find on our way, wherever we go and in whatever civilisation, ancient or modern, we plunge ourselves, will be taken in this way from the source. It is this essential gesture of holding something together, be it so dispersed and scattered as the islands in the Caribbean are, that teaches us the way to face the challenges of the Caribbean - this 'wonderful and fantastic' region.

A little child in the assembly 'smiling so beautifully' reminds the speaker of all the little ones, the destitute and the poor whose lives have to be sustained. Neglecting the human unity of the Caribbean would limit one's perspective to merely economic data; holding on to this image of unity allows for the care of the whole human being, in his complexity, and the whole human community, in its needs.

Ms Pintasilgo emphasized the consequences of such a way of looking and acting: education, health, housing, transport, economy, ... have to be approached in their interdependence. 'We have to become interministerial all the time' and this has to be insisted upon so that the minds of our authorities change.

Finally, she said that it would be pretentious to try to hold the whole world in our hands, 'our task is rather, far from being intoxicated by globalisation, to look at those with whom we share a community of destiny, a community of life, those our hands can really hold.'

Press interviews were given to the Breakfast Club, the morning radio news magazine (Prof. Em. Monique Bégin and Prof. Dragoljub Najman) and to Radio Jamaica (Dr P. Anderson and S. Neufville).

Excerpts of the opening ceremony were on the news.

List of the participants in the work of the Caribbean Seminar

Prof. the Hon. Rex Nettleford Keynote Speaker, Deputy Vice Chancellor - The University of The West Indies

Government of Jamaica

The Hon. Errol Ennis State Minister of Finance

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Prof. Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo	President
Prof. Emerita Monique Bégin	Member of the Commission
Prof. Dragoljub Najman	Adviser to the President
Dr. Léonard Manneke-Appel	Consultant to the Commission

University of the West-Indies

Dr. Don Robotham	Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School for Graduate Studies and Research
Dr. Barrington Chevannes	Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr. John Maxwell	Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Sciences

Organizing Committee

Dr. Patricia Y. Anderson	Director, Centre for Population, Community and Social Change, University of the West Indies
Prof. Chukwudum Uche	Department of Sociology and Social Work
Mr Sheldon Neufville	Secretariat, Department of Sociology and Social Work

Regional Participants from the Caribbean

Alexis Armstrong	Department of Youth and Sports Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports - Castries - St. Lucia
Virginia d'Auvergne	Ministry of Education, Human Resource, Youth and Sports - Castries - St. Lucia
Anthony George	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Sustainable Development - Castries - St. Lucia
Beverly Harris	Planning Unit - Ministry of Finance and Planning, Basseterre - St. Kitts
Gordon S.L. Payne	University of Guyana - Georgetown - Guyana
Matthew Ramsaroop	Central Statistical Office - Port of Spain - Trinidad and Tobago
Tessa Stroude	Ministry of Health - St. George's - Grenada
Beverly D. Warren	Ministry of Finance and Planning - Kingston - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Participants from Jamaica

Cheryl Abeo Jones
Bureau of Women's Affairs

Merville Anderson
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Peta-Anne Baker
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of the West Indies

Jacqueline Bennett
Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities

Nicole Bonair-Smith

Janet Brown
Caribbean Child Development Centre
School of Continuing Studies - The University of the West Indies

Loana Carty
Student

Leonie Clarke
Early Childhood Education

Mary P. Clarke
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Lennox Deane
National Family Planning Board

Karen Ford-Warner
Office of the Prime Minister - Tourism Division

Scarlette Gillings
Jamaica Social Investment Fund

Dorrifred Green
Student

Jennifer Green
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Paulette A. Griffiths-Jude
National Environmental Societies Trust (NEST)

Juanita Hamilton
Student

Sonia T. Harris
Planning and Design Quorum (St Mary)

Aldrie Henry-Lee
Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of the West Indies

Hubert Hogg
Social Development Commission (St. James)

Herbie Honnigan
Jamaica Council for Persons with Disability

Lurline Hosang
Social Development Commission (Hanover)

Faith D. Innerarity
Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Sport

Anthony S.R. Johnson
Department of Management Studies
University of the West Indies

Carol Johnston-Miller
Ministry of Agriculture

Dee Jupp
Jamaica Social Investment Fund

Steven Kerr
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Pauline Knight
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Jennifer Knight-Johnson
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Owen Laing
Caribbean Conference of Churches

Camele Legister
Student

Evelyn L. Lindsay (Spanish Town)

Eulie Mantock
Dudley T. McFarquhar - National Family Planning Board

Hermione McKenzie
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of the West Indies

Marcia-Joy McKenzie
Jamaica/Netherlands Rural Health Project (St. Thomas)

Joan Meade
Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management
University of the West Indies

Ishakamus Menelik
UNIA and ACL

Carmen V. Miller
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Don Mills
Ambassador

Ivor Minott
Jamaica/Netherlands Rural Health Project (Pt Antonio)

Phyllis Mitchell
Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture

Patricia Mohammed
Centre for Gender and Development Studies
University of the West Indies

Zosha Morgan
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of the West Indies

Vittala N. Murthy
Department of Economics
University of the West Indies

Valerie Nam
Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Ivaline Nickie
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of the West Indies

Val Nubi

Florizelle A. O'Connor
Human Rights, Criminal Justice and Civil Society Consultant

Omkar Parshad
Faculty of Medical Sciences - University of the West Indies

Suzan Phillips
Student

Mercedes Pons-Aponte
Embassy of Venezuela

Beverly Reynolds
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Tracey Roberson
Bureau of Women's Affairs

Stephen Rodrigues
Jamaica Social Investment Fund

Thelma Stubbs
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Orville Taylor
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of the West Indies

Dianne Thomas
National Family Planning Board

Lloyd Thomas
Metropolitan Parks and Markets

Shirley Vernon
Bureau of Women's Affairs

Glenda Vincent
Student

Easton Williams
Planning Institute of Jamaica

Pearl Wilson
Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in Kingston

Jeremy Woodley
Centre for Marine Sciences - University of the West Indies

Staff members

Beverley Andrews
G. Burke
C. Campbell
Nadene Chambers
Maureen Dean
Veronica Findlay
Winsome Forde
Michael Gordon
Mrs. Green
Judith Hall
Ms Hopkins
Noel James

Melanie Lewis
Mrs. McCarthy
Mrs. Miller
Sophia Morgan
June Pinto
Valerie
Franklyn Wapp
Romeo Williams

Lance Corporal Penrose
Woman Constable Stewart



Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

3 bis, rue Emile Duclaux — 75015 Paris, France
Tel.: 33 - 140 56 00 79 — Fax : 33 - 145 66 02 63 — e.mail:popqual@hol.fr

Thus, the time has come to mobilize consciences and countries. Compassion - as a dimension of the political being and of political action - is perhaps an essential element of the new ethical paradigm which we are all seeking, as we enter the third millennium. It is up to citizens to show compassion and to demand it of those who govern them.

María de Lourdes Pintasilgo

Our attitude and values must reflect culture and tradition. We may not be able to undo the past but with knowledge and determination we can make the future.

Olusegun Obasanjo

Humanity has invented more in the past forty years than since its arrival on the earth. It has yet to create the most important thing of all: a better life for everyone. To whom does the misery of others belong? It belongs to everyone. And happiness: that belongs to all of us likewise.

Bernard Kouchner

There exists one opposition made to be irreducible, that of the economic versus the social. The resistance here is total. These barriers must be overcome if we want to successfully meet the new challenges of government and meet the needs of people, in a new ethos of caring.

Monique Bégin

The world urgently needs new mechanisms for funding the global priorities. Either we do it all together in a spirit of solidarity to reach the objectives formally agreed upon by the UN Assembly, or we will have to wait for crises to come, one after the other.

Dragoljub Najman

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

African Union Commission

1997

Caring for the Future from Vision to policies

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/2611>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository