The objective of the Fulfilled Commitments Index is to measure the degree to which governments fulfill their global and specific commitments, in pursuance of the provisions of the declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit on Social Development, and of the Declaration and Platform of Action of the Fourth Conference on Women (Beijing).

The proposal to construct the FCI is aimed at providing civil society with an instrument that will enable it to assess and measure to evaluate government progress and shortfalls in respect of the fulfillments of commitments in the various aspects involved in the idea of «social development».

The FCI is a proposal and should therefore be considered as an instrument in the process of construction. The aim of this proposal is to open up a debate to various national and international interlocutors on the scope and limitations of the instruments to monitor agreements, thus allowing for an exchange of ideas, suggestions and opinions on the suitability of the measures proposed. The success of this enterprise will depend substantially on the degree to which civil society organizations can effectively become involved in the construction and application of this instrument and transform it into a working tool for the forthcoming years.

Their input, participation in debates and suggestions will make it possible to improve the FCI progressively in order to reach the objectives in the most efficient way possible.

The FCI is composed of a set of quantitative and qualitative measures that may be classified according to two basic dimensions: the «Distance from Goals» dimension and the «Political Will» dimension. In turn, each dimension is subdivided into others and these, into packages of variables. The possibility of combining all these variables in a single index is a stage to be constructed. For the time being, and for the purpose of the present report, the FCI will consider these dimensions as specific stages and this is the criterion that we have used to submit the relevant information.

A first dimension, that we shall call «Distance from Goals» provides us with information on the degree to which the countries are either far or near to the goals they proposed reaching on the basis of their commitments. This dimension is composed of variables that measure the status in each country, and is basically constructed on information from international organizations that has already been standardized.

A second dimension, that we shall call «Political Will», is aimed at measuring the degree to which the governments express their political will to face social development problems. The first dimension «Distance from Goals» tells us how the countries are now, in their various aspects, but tells us nothing about the efforts that are being made in the area of social development. The «Political Will» dimension is aimed at this area and should be understood as a dimension complementary to the former. It enables us, independently from the «present» situation of the countries, to measure the initiatives that are being implemented in order to face social development problems. This second dimension is certainly the most complex one, as it obliges us to set up mechanisms of an essentially qualitative nature, which in turn can be combined with quantitative variables.

As stated earlier on, the FCI is, first and foremost, a proposal in construction, and this for three types of reasoning. In the first place, the FCI is subject to the availability of information comparable among countries, and this information requires permanent elaboration for the following reasons: a) every year the information is subject to change, while new measures arise and new indicators are created; b) for many countries and for many years, information is today non-existent or insufficient, requiring a permanent input into databases in order to overcome these gaps, as well as a search for methodological criteria that will enable estimates and projections to be made in order to make up for the present lack of information. Secondly, the instruments suggested, of a qualitative type, particularly the Indicator of Plans, Programs and Initiatives and the Indicator of Involvement by the Civil Society, (two key instruments in the «Political Will» dimension), require the support of organizations in order to follow successfully the strategies for gathering information. This involves, as an essential part of the proposal, support to the creation and strengthening of networks among the social organizations of the countries, to enable us - them and us - to carry out a mutual feed-back of information in order to monitor these commitments adequately.

In the third place, and very much linked to this last point, FCI is in the process of construction because it is an instrument that must serve networks, organizations and groups to assess the commitments taken on during the Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences. The only way that this instrument will be able to carry out this function is if the groups are effectively involved and ac-
tively participate in its construction. Only this interaction will ensure that the desired objectives are achieved.

**A PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION**

The World Summit (Copenhagen) and the Fourth Conference (Beijing), involved global and specific agreements with regard to plans of action, assessments and goals to be reached in the future.

These may briefly be described as:

a. Global agreements at the level of assessments of problems linked to social development, both at national and global level (e.g. rapid processes of change and adjustment have been accompanied by an increase in poverty, unemployment and social disintegration) and specific agreements at the level of assessments on factors determining problems in the social area (e.g. In order to deal with rural poverty, an increase and improvement of land tenure is required, through agrarian reform).

b. Specific agreements, of the latter kind, serve as a basis for the adoption of Commitments with initiatives for the removal of obstacles to social development (e.g. Improve access to land, loans, information, infrastructure and other productive resources for small and micro-sized enterprises).

c. Some commitments have been set out as Goals to be Achieved, but are non-specific regarding the time horizon (e.g. To guarantee full and equal access of girls and women to education) and specific (e.g. By the year 2000, achieve universal access to basic education and completion of primary education for at least 80% of school age children).

d. Commitments to assess, measure and follow-up on both national «status» regarding areas of social development (e.g. Prepare quantitative and qualitative indicators of social development, divided by sex whenever possible, to assess poverty, employment, social integration and other social factors) and social development policies (e.g. Determine the effect of social policies and programs and seek ways to improve the effectiveness of policies and programs...). In this respect, both institutional recommendations for the generation of relevant information (e.g. Give preference whenever possible, to the use of competent national experts) as well as recommendations for the follow-up of the Summit agreements (Elaborate a framework for international cooperation, in order to guarantee integrated and wide application, follow-up and assessment of the Summit results) are included.

On the basis of the various levels and types of commitments taken on, the Index of Commitments takes on two dimensions, the dimension «Political Will», as we have already stated, is aimed at measuring government political will according to the commitments taken on (it includes the Index of Plans, Programs and Initiatives. Commitment for 0.7% ODA. Commitment to reach 20% of expenditure on social programs, index on the Ratification of Key International Agreements and Index of Involvement of civil society), and the dimension «Distance from Goals», aimed at measuring the degree to which the countries are getting close to fulfilling the proposed objectives (includes the Indicators of Progress related to Goals, according to specific commitments and the Index of Progress related to Goals, according to major areas).

This involves many difficulties and challenges.

In the first place, social phenomena involved are so complex that the measures that we generate to deal with them almost always reflect a certain bias. However, it is important to rely on quantitative measures and estimates that will enable analysis to be made, contributing to more rational and efficient decision-making.

Social indicators are statistics that reflect current social conditions and facilitate their process of assessment and follow-up. These indicators have problems on two levels: a) they are imperfect representations of existing conditions; b) comparable information is not available on all countries or on all periods of time; c) many of the commitments of the Summit and the Conference on Women, are general and non-specific agreements, that make follow-up very difficult.

At the same time, the objective of follow-up implies that we attempt not merely to measure the **evolution of the countries for a set of indicators that are supposed to reflect approximately the social state within the set of subjects covered by the commitments, but, and especially so, the degree to which governments incorporate the concerns of the Summit in their decision making process.** Both systems of indicators are assumed to be related. One way of linking them is the UN classification between: a) «status» indicators; and b) «response» indicators (showing the degree to which governments are carrying out actions aimed at improving or reversing situations). Thus, the indicators of expenditure on health or available health installations, should go hand in hand with the child mortality, life expectancy variables, etc. However, both systems of indicators may reflect different situations. Countries having a strong accumulation of «social capital» will have good indicators, relatively independently from the governments’ currently giving priority to these objectives. Other countries with a heritage of inequality and chronic poverty, although currently in the process of implementing policies for redistribution or reconversion, or anti-poverty plans, where there is a strong will to change, will find it hard to reflect the impact of these policies in their indicators, at least in the short term.

The system of indicators aimed at measuring the government’s capacity for proposals, has the following problems: a) many of the commitments are not able to be «read» as programs, plans or policies, because they are general or non-specific declarations; b) comparable information is not available for all the countries or for all periods of time.

**Summing up, we may find three types of problems:**

- problems concerning specific goals: these are minor. The problems arise from the lack of available information for countries and comparable periods;
- problems in the composition of indexes by areas. The prob-
blems arise from: a) optimization of the selection of variables by areas; b) establishment of systems for weighting variables. In cases having already standardized criteria for the selection of variables by area (e.g. the U.N. Statistical Secretariat), a methodological definition compatible with them is used. The same goes for standard international weighting of variables.

- problems in the construction of the Index of Political Will: the Index of Political Will measures the existence of problems in the priority areas defined by the Social Development Summit and the Conference on Women. It is an essential complement to the «status» and «situation» indicators. Its difficulty lies in the complexity of governmental plans and programs in the areas defined, and in the need to simplify an instrument that is comparable.

1. DIMENSION: DISTANCE FROM GOALS

This measures the commitments set out in item c) above. It should survey:

1.a. Indicator of Progress related to goals, according to specific commitments. (Provides information on the relative distance separating countries from the goals to be reached, taken on as specific commitments. For example: achievement of goals on reduction in infant mortality).

1.b. Indicator of Progress related to goals by major areas (provides information on the relative distance separating the countries from the goals, according to defined priority areas). These Indicators are articulated by areas; Education, Health, Employment, etc.).

1A. Indicator of Progress related to goals, according to specific commitments

The Copenhagen Summit on Social Development and the Conference on Women specified 13 specific goals to be achieved by the year 2000 (and, in some cases, by the year 2015). The Indicator of Progress related to goals, according to specific commitments, comprises a set of variables aimed at measuring the situation of the countries today, in relation to these goals, finally composing a single global indicator, averaging the sum of the relative distances from each goal.

1. Commitment: by the year 2000, achieve universal access to basic education and completion of primary education for at least 80% of school age children; eliminate the difference between the rates of schooling for boys and girls in primary and secondary education by the year 2005, and achieve universal primary education in all the countries before 2015.

   Variables: number of children reaching 5th grade; ratio of enrollment in primary school; school life expectancy

2. Commitment: by the year 2000, achieve in all the countries a life expectancy of over 60 years of age.

3. Commitment: by the year 2000, reduce infant and child (under 5 years of age) mortality rates to a third of the rates prevailing in 1990, or to between 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, if this figure is lower. By the year 2015, achieve an infant mortality rate of less than 35 per 1,000 live births and less than 45 per 1,000 for children under 5 years of age.

   Variables: Infant mortality rate

4. Commitment: by the year 2000 reduce maternal mortality to half the level of 1990 and by 2015, reduce it again by one half.

   Variables: Maternal mortality rate.

5. Commitment: achieve food security, ensuring a supply of healthy and nutritionally adequate food, both on the national and international level, and a reasonable degree of stability in the supply of food, in addition to physical, social and economic access to sufficient food for all, reaffirming at the same time that food should not be used as a tool for political pressure.

   Variables: Calorie supply per capita

6. Commitment: By the year 2000, reduce severe and moderate malnutrition for children under 5 years of age to half of the rate corresponding to 1990.

   Variables: percentage of children born with low weight percentage of children under 5 with insufficient weight.

7. Commitment: by the year 2000, achieve a level of health for the world population that will enable it to have a socially and economically productive life, and to this purpose, provide primary health care to all.

   Variables: percentage of the population having access to health services.

8. Commitment: Through the system for primary health care, give access as soon as possible and by the year 2015 at the latest, to reproductive health care services to all persons of an appropriate age, in pursuance of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, also considering the reservations and declarations made at said Conference, in particular those regarding the need for parent orientation and their responsibility.

   Variables: pregnancies attended
   Births attended
   Use of contraceptives
   Fertility rate

9. Commitment: Intensify efforts and increase commitments in order to achieve by the year 2000 the objective of reducing mortality morbidity due to malaria by at least 20% of the 1995 level in at least 75% of the countries affected, in addition to reducing social and economic losses due to malaria in developing countries, especially in Africa, where an overwhelming majority of the cases and deaths take place.

   Variables: Cases of malaria per 100,000 inhabitants (1992).

10. Commitment: By the year 2000, eradicate, eliminate or control the main diseases constituting sanitary problems on a world level, in pursuance of paragraph 6.12 of Program 21 2/

   Variables: Children under one year of age totally immunized
11. **Commitment:** Reduce the rate of adult illiteracy – each country will determine the appropriate age group– to at least half the 1990 level, emphasizing female literacy; achieve universal access to good quality education, giving special priority to primary and technical education, and professional training, struggle against illiteracy and eliminate differences between sexes regarding access to education, continuation of studies and assistance towards this end.

**Variable:** Literacy rate

12. **Commitment:** Provide sustainable access to sufficient amounts of drinking water and adequate sanitary services for all.

**Variables:** percentage of the population having access to drinking water, percentage of the population with access to adequate sanitation.

13. **Commitment:** Improve availability of cheap and suitable housing for all, in pursuance with the World Housing Strategy for the Year 2000 14/.

**Variables:** Supply of housing, Crowding (persons per room)

**Methodological Specification:**

For each of the commitments, the Indicator of Progress related to goals varies between 1 and 100, with 0 = to delay or stagnation in relation to goals and 100 = to goal achieved.

The Indicator of Progress related to goals adds and averages the distances regarding each specific commitment by country, scoring the level of achievement of the goal between 0 and 100 for the year for which information is available.

1b. **Indicators of Progress related to goals, according to major areas**

The Indicators of Progress related to goals, according to major areas, measure the relative distance of the countries with respect to goals, established on the basis of the following areas: a) Housing and Sanitation, b) Health, c) Nutrition, d) Education, e) Poverty and Inequality, f) Condition of Women. The composition is made by areas, defining a single indicator for each one (thus an Indicator of Progress related to goals in Health, and Indicator of Progress related to goals in Education, etc. would be established). The area on the «Condition of Women» is different from the others insofar as it combines, in a complex way, the condition of women in the areas of Education, Health and Inequality, generating for each sub-area, a single measurement: Condition of Women in the Area of Health, Condition of Women in Education, etc.

**Selected Variables:**

A set of variables by area have been combined, partially following the selection made by United Nations, based on the social objectives and goals of international commitments, 1 and also on the comparability of available information.

1. **Health**

1.1 Selected variables

a) life expectancy at birth
b) rate of infant mortality
c) rate of maternal mortality
d) percentage of the population having access to health care services

2. **Housing and Sanitation**

2.1 Selected variables

a) percentage of the population with access to drinking water
b) percentage of the total population with sanitation
c) housing with basic sanitary installations.

3. **Nutrition**

3.1 Selected variables

a) children with low weight at birth

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1 International goals for social and human development have been adopted for the 1990s by means of international agreements such as the Global Health for All by the Year 2000 Strategy (1981), the Amsterdam Declaration on Better Life for Future Generations (1990), the World Declaration on Education for All (1990), the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children (1990) and the Nairobi Strategies for Advancement of Women (1985). UNICEF and the WHO are collaborating on monitoring the health goals of the World Summit on Children. This includes developing indicators, establishing guidelines for use of indicators, and collaborating on the process of informing at mid-decade on the global progress achieved toward those goals. FAO has also been preparing risk maps for certain countries with a view to establishing a basis for evaluating specific early warning indicators for vulnerable sites in terms of food security at subnational level and among different categories of the population. These indicators can be monitored regularly, reinforcing the efficiency of the crop monitoring system and providing timely information for emergency aid and food aid planning. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations data and information services, in 1989 an inter-agency working group was established on social indicators, to cooperate on development of a solid basis for measuring progress toward social goals. The working group consists of representatives of UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and the Statistics Office of the United Nations Secretariat. In its 1991 session the Statistics Commission approved the program for the working group for monitoring achievement of social goals in the 1990s and agreed that, although the technical, organizational and political challenges are formidable, the need to act is timely and urgent.
2. DIMENSION: POLITICAL WILL

This dimension measures the degree of government political will with respect to three sets of indicators.

2.A Indicator of Plans, Programs and Initiatives. This measures the degree to which the governments prepare specific plans and programs, in relation to the commitments taken on in the Declarations. These plans or programs are divided into major areas, on the basis of the type of commitment.

2.B Indicator of the Government Social Expenditure. This measures the degree to which the governments take on the 20/20 Commitment. It is surveyed both in social expenditure set out in the Budget, as well as in the proportion of International Aid devoted to the social area.

2.C Indicator of Development Aid. This measures the distance between the commitment of 0.7% of GDP to Official Development Aid and current aid.

2.D Indicator of Ratification of Key International Agreements. This measures the degree to which the governments have or have not ratified Key International Agreements on the basis of a package of Agreements.

2.E Indicator of Civil Society Involvement. This measures the degree to which governments co-participate with civil society organizations (CSOs) in the design, implementation and follow-up of plans and policies for social development.

4. EDUCATION

4.1 Selected variables

a) rate of Adult Literacy
b) expectancy of number of years schooling
c) number of people having finished 5th year of the primary cycle

5. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

5.1 Selected variables

a) Cumulative quintiles
b) Gini Index
c) Percentage of the population in a situation of poverty out of the total population.

In addition to the areas, a set of variables was selected that measure the «condition of women» in the set of areas.

6. WOMEN AND GENDER INEQUALITY

6.1 Condition of Women in HEALTH

Selected variables

a) pregnancies attended
b) chidbirths attended
c) Life expectancy
d) Contraceptive use

6.2 Condition of Women in EDUCATION

Selected variables:

a) Literacy by sex
b) Number of girls reaching 5th grade
c) Rate of registration at primary school (girls)

6.3 Condition of Women and Inequality

Selected indexes

a) Index of Gender Inequality
b) Index of Gender Empowerment

Methodological specification:

- the measures are proxy indicators, i.e. indicators that measure approximately the issues submitted,
- in order to assess the distance with respect to the promised goal, different parameters for evolution of variables have been used, following international standards.
- these variables are composed of areas. Their objective is to show the evolution of the variables over time, taking as time 0 the year 1990.

1. PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY
   1. Ratification of international conventions on human rights that have not yet been ratified.
   2. Plan for transition to democracy in non-democratic countries.
   3. Existence of legal frameworks geared to public sector transparency.
   4. Plans for strengthening of cooperatives, communities, mutual-support groups, etc.
   5. Plans fostering decentralization of public services.
   6. Regulatory framework for coordination between CSOs and State.

2. POVERTY AND ADJUSTMENT
   1. Poverty Eradication Plan.

3. EMPLOYMENT
   1. Programs for job creation. Includes participation of union leaders in programs.
   2. Programs to combat unemployment and underemployment.
   3. Support to and fostering of small and medium enterprises. Initiatives to strengthen the cooperative sector.
   4. Existence of labor legislation protecting the unemployed, mothers, union leaders, the infirm, immigrant workers and children.

2 For example, laws penalizing acts of public corruption.
3 CSO training programs to participate in public programs and policies. Programs to strengthen the cooperative sector.
4 Plans to promote participation of CSOs and local communities in policies. Programs for decentralization of resources, decisions and services. Municipal strengthening programs.
5 Creation of regulatory norms for CSO participation in design, implementation and evaluation of public policies and programs.
6 Implementation of national poverty eradication plans. Plans for eradication of absolute poverty. Coordination of policies between countries to alleviate poverty.
7 Governments: integration of poverty-fighting goals in their adjustment programs via: a) analysis of policies in terms of their effect on inequality; b) public investment policies for infrastructure development and natural resources that benefit poor sectors. Measures to protect BSS (basic social spending). Reduction of military spending. For donor countries: adjustment plans with 0.7% of GDP for aid to social programs. Commitment to debt alleviation. Support to programs for poverty eradication in Africa.
9 Self-help programs for poor populations. Efforts toward coordination with CSOs on poverty programs, including the private sector. Intersectoral and intergovernmental designs integrated for these purposes. Initiatives for cooperation among governments, financial entities and civil society organizations.
10 Includes: Plans for income creation and productive diversification of poor communities. Plans for extension and improvement of infrastructure, energy availability and sewage services for poor populations. Plans for creation of adequate housing for poor sectors, giving priority to participation of communities involved in self-help groups, cooperatives and civil society organizations in the design and implementation of the plans. Programs for productive diversification for alternative sources of income. Measures for environmental protection to avoid harmful effects on the surroundings of populations in a situation of poverty.
11 Includes: a) services for social protection for unemployment, maternity, old age; b) services for social protection of children, displaced persons, disabled persons; c) free legal assistance to low-income persons; d) extension of labor legislation protecting the unemployed, mothers, union leaders, the infirm, immigrant workers.
12 Includes: a) credit programs for microenterprises and farmers; b) plans to strengthen organizations of small farmers, cooperatives, landless workers, and women’s cooperatives; c) plans for farmers to find new strategies to sell produce; d) projects, plans and institutions for implementation of agrarian reform; e) plans for economic participation of rural women; f) Plans for expansion of technology, access to credit and infrastructure, information on markets and prices, for farm populations; g) programs for increasing food production; h) programs to remove obstacles to access to credit by poor populations, especially rural dwellers and women; i) rural development programs emphasizing settlement of rural population; measures to discourage rural exodus; j) sustainable agriculture plans emphasizing the environment.
13 e.g. infrastructure works.
14 Laws covering issues such as: a) maternity leave; b) protection of labor rights of pregnant women; c) rights of migrant workers; d) social security coverage for illness and layoff; e) protection of labor rights of union members; f) minimum age for employment of children, including girls, pursuant to the existing international labor standards and the Convention on the Rights of children, in all sectors of activity.
5. Programs for job retraining.
6. Existence of diagnoses of the job market, including new measures regarding the phenomenon of non-remunerated domestic work of women.\(^{15}\)

4. WOMEN AND GENDER INEQUALITY

1. Initiatives for involvement of women in public policies.\(^{16}\)
2. Programs for support to women in family reproduction.\(^{17}\)
3. Programs to combat discrimination against women in education and the job market.\(^{18}\)
4. Monitoring of rights of women vis-à-vis men.\(^{19}\)
5. Support programs and services for elimination of violence against women.
6. Support programs for women in a situation of poverty.\(^{20}\)

5. EDUCATION

1. Plans for eradication of literacy.
2. Plans for expansion of primary and secondary education.
3. Plans for continuing education (especially women).
4. Programs for adult education.
5. Improvement of educational infrastructure (schools) in zones with concentration of poverty, including additional services (food services).
6. Improvement and expansion of pre-school education programs.

6. MINORITIES

1. Rights, laws and support services to indigenous communities.\(^{22}\)
2. Laws against racial, ethnic, linguistic discrimination.\(^{23}\)
3. Measures for protection of displaced persons, refugees and immigrant populations.\(^{24}\)
4. Policies for protection of neglected children and children in general.\(^{25}\)

7. HEALTH

1. Plans for extension of primary health care, especially to poor populations having limited access.
3. Programs for expansion of the sewage system and basic infrastructure, to the poorest populations.
4. AIDS prevention programs.
5. Plans to reduce infant mortality.
6. Plans to rehabilitate disabled persons.

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15 Existence of job market information, including on informal work and underemployment. Generation of diagnoses on non-remunerated work, for inclusion in national accounts.
16 E.g.: management training programs for women to hold high public office. Existence of mechanisms for positive discrimination in order to increase women’s role in political parties and in government. Existence of a gender perspective in public policies. Initiatives for women’s participation in leadership posts in the health professions and in the scientific-technical sphere.
17 E.g.: Existence of public child-care centers. E.g.: Laws increasing male responsibility in family reproduction (such as paternity leave).
18 E.g.: a) inclusion of the subject of gender inequality in education; b) oversee and monitor the role given to women in the mass media; plans ensuring girls’ access to education; d) laws preventing gender discrimination in access to work and in pay; e) programs fostering credit and services for the creation of women’s enterprises and cooperatives.
19 Existence of the same property rights as form men. Generate national mechanisms for control, evaluation and monitoring of policies geared to improving the position of women.
20 Policies, objectives and measurable goals to improve and expand economic opportunities for women and access to productive resources, in particular for women who have no source of income.
21 Includes all initiatives to eliminate differential access to education by sex, ethnic condition, income level, etc.
22 a) Rights of indigenous populations to political self-determination and use of their language; b) land laws for indigenous populations; c) support services to indigenous communities (especially in the provision of services including health, education, sewage and infrastructure); d) laws preventing occupation of lands pertaining to native populations; e) initiatives to improve the productive capacity of indigenous peoples.
23 Existence of legislation implying positive measures to control discrimination. For example, arbitration procedures for discrimination conflicts. Existence of «positive discrimination» laws favoring access to education and the job market by discriminated minorities. Protection measures for persons affected by linguistic barriers. Recognition of languages spoken as official languages.
24 a) Rights of documented and undocumented immigrants; b) measures for protection of refugees, displaced persons, persons seeking asylum, documented and undocumented immigrants; c) international support to countries providing asylum (see Statute on Refugees: 1951 25/ and Protocol 1967 26/ relative to the Statute on Refugees. Existence of agencies to Request Asylum).
25 Includes: a) Programs to end child employment; b) policies for protection of neglected children and children living in the streets; c) support services to single-parent households; d) support and prevention services for violence against children (e.g., to fight child prostitution).
9. Plans for expansion of access to drinking water to low-income populations.
10. Programs for rehabilitation of disabled persons, with extended access.

2B, C. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID INDICATOR AND GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SPENDING INDICATOR: THE 20/20 INITIATIVE

The International Development Aid Indicator measures the degree to which donor countries concentrate efforts to increase the amount and the proportion of official development aid (ODA). The specific objectives of this commitment are aimed at: a) reaching 0.7% of GDP for all official development aid; b) increasing the proportion of funds for social development programs; c) agreements for mutual commitment among developed partners and developing countries to distribute, in proportion, 20% of ODA and 20% of the budget for basic social spending; d) giving special priority to ODA for eradication of poverty in developing countries, particularly in Africa, low-income countries of the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the least-developed countries.

2.E CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT INDICATOR

The Indicator of Commitments Fulfilled includes, among its dimensions, that of «civil society involvement». This dimension covers reciprocal or unilateral actions and initiatives between government and civil society on endeavors linked to the commitments assumed in the Declarations of the Copenhagen Summit and the Conference on Women. Given the complexities inherent to this dimension, as well as its importance, we will provide a brief introduction to the subject, with a view to the methodological justification of the instruments designed to measure «civil society involvement».

DEFINITION OF CSOs

The definition of «civil society organizations» is aimed at defining a complex and heterogeneous set of organizations that share the fact that they are: a) non-governmental organizations; b) non-profit organizations. There is a diversity of organizational forms, including unions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with activities ranging from promotion to research and diagnosis, volunteer groups, different types of cooperatives, local communities, and social movements of different sorts.

The notion of «civil society» underlying the definition of these organizations recognizes the existence of a space different from the political one (which would include the dimension of «government», «state», «political parties») and from the economic one (which would include a whole variety of organizations from the «private» world in the broad sense: companies, corporations, interest groups, etc.). Within the set of objectives defined by their specific activities (which deal with the demands and needs of specific social groups), the organizations acting and developing in this space have the purpose of affecting the decision-making process, as well of acting as an overseer of both political and governmental organizations, along with economic organizations. This idea of an overseer, in turn, is linked to a more basic idea: citizenship.

Increasingly, the complexity of mass societies has forced researchers to acknowledge the difficulties faced by individual citizens to have some capability of affecting and monitoring the decisions affecting them. The notion of a «second citizenship» has arisen to designate the citizen’s capability that is exercised not

References to ODA are contained in Commitment 9(1) of the Declaration and in paragraphs 11(h), 88(b), 88(c) and 88(d) of the Programme of Action.

26 (Programme of Action, par. 88(b)).
27 (Programme of Action, par. 88(c)).
28 (Programme of Action, par. 88(d)).
29 (Programme of Action, par. 88(d)).
through individual actions of citizens (such as voting), but instead by groups of organized citizens. Thus the idea of «civil society» arises as organized society or, in other terms, «civil society organizations» (CSOs).

The «citizens’ watch» capability today is primarily exercised through the actions of citizens’ organizations working on the most diverse purposes and in complex and heterogeneous ways. This capability has also been reinforced and demanded by the context of growing globalization. The creation of transnational and regional networks, the internationalization of linkages, and the search for agreements on agendas for joint action have been a response to the phenomenon of globalization.

THE ROLE OF CSOs IN THE DECLARATIONS

The Declarations coming out of the Social Summit and the Conference on Women have underscored the role of civil society organizations, with the understanding that: a) neither the state nor the market can today satisfy the challenges of sustainable development, and it is increasingly necessary for governments to have the cooperation of civil society; b) poverty and inequality will only be surmounted if those who are suffering from them manage to find sufficient organizational resources to exert pressure toward meeting their demands and needs; c) design and implementation of social and economic policies geared to different populations in a situation of social exclusion must involve the same populations in the process, to avoid running the risk of being ineffective or inappropriate.

The participation of civil society organizations in the Declarations assumes: a) a set of areas for possible policies to combat gender inequity, combat poverty, programs for expansion and improvement of social services (health, education, etc.) for poor populations, etc.; and b) a set of different possibilities for participation in the design of policies, participation in policy implementation (e.g., coordinated government–civil society programs for provision of basic social services), participation in policy evaluation and follow-up.

The combination of the two criteria – areas of participation and modes of participation – takes into account the set of mentions of civil society–government cooperation in the discourse of governments. Based on these two coordinates, it is essential to define the criteria making it possible to “measure” the level of involvement in policies by civil society organizations.

MEASURING CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

To measure civil society involvement in policies it is necessary, first, to determine each country’s degree of relative «associative density».

This implies:

- mapping the universe of existing civil society organizations, based on certain variables that each country must define: type of organizations, area they work in, number and continuity of existing organizations, management of internal and external resources, etc.
- analyzing the degree of linkage and coordination among existing civil associations, through a scanning of second degree associations or networks, etc.

In the second place, it is necessary to establish, for each country, the type of linkage existing between the CSOs and the government, by determining:

- Existence or non–existence of a regulatory framework that recognizes the status of these organizations.
- The existence and degree of formalization of coordination mechanisms between CSOs and government, including both the general and specific coordination mechanisms on social policies, and the means for economic–financial articulation between CSOs and governments.

In the third place, we should take into account aspects of current legislation that ensure an appropriate environment for full autonomous development of civil society. In other words, this stresses the existence of full rights to the so–called «second citizenship».

This includes legislation affecting or regulating participation of civil society, covering from the existence of universal suffrage for selection of political personnel, to the freedom of association and expression, union freedom, etc.

In the fourth place, it is important to measure the involvement of CSOs in plans and governments arising in relation to commitments assumed at the Copenhagen and Beijing meetings. The existence of follow–up groups on the Summit and different initiatives and forms of linkages in relation to such commitments is one of the essential keys of the instrument.

Yet we must take into account that not all these aspects are measurable, or even comparable. It is thus important to define what is measurable and what is not measurable, so as to construct an appropriate instrument, in this dimension, for incorporation in the Indicator of Commitments Fulfilled.

An initial aspect that hinders measurement and comparison is the concept of «associative density». Each country has an associative density relative to its own characteristics of social structure, which foster or impede formation of social networks. At the same time, the density of civil society is the result of the country’s history and its culture, particularly its political culture. «Associative density» can only be evaluated based on more or less flexible criteria for approaching the reality of each region.

In the second place, the relations between associative density and impact of the organizations’ collective actions are far from linear. For example we can cite the rate of unionization: the impact of union actors on the public decision–making process is the result of a complex configuration of factors, in which the «unionization rate» (a proxy measurement of associative density) is only one.

Within such limitations, the information required at the national level to evaluate involvement of civil society is:

1. A definition of what is understood as civil society organiza-
The instrument we have defined to measure «involvement of civil society» consists of two sections:

a) a questionnaire to be applied to national NGOs and networks, with the aim of measuring the first 5 points mentioned.

b) the inclusion in plans and policies, defined as part of the Political Will Indicator, in order to gather the information corresponding to item 6.

As we said at the start of this article, «FCI is in the process of construction because it is an instrument that must serve networks, organizations and groups to assess the commitments taken on during the Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences. The only way that this instrument will be able to carry out this function is if the groups are effectively involved and actively participate in its construction. Only this interaction will ensure that the desired objectives are achieved.»
### Fulfilled Commitment Index (FCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIMENSIONS</th>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>LEVEL OF AGGREGATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. DISTANCE FROM GOALS</td>
<td>Commitment 1: Access and Completion of Basic Education</td>
<td>Measures the countries’ relative distance from specific goals and indicates evolution.</td>
<td>Each commitment has a specific measurement: as many measurements as existing commitments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.a. Indicator of Progress related to goals per specific commitments</td>
<td>Commitment 1: Life expectancy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Commitment 2: Infant mortality</td>
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<td>Commitment 3: Maternal mortality rate</td>
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<td>Commitment 4: Food security</td>
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<td>Commitment 5: Child malnutrition</td>
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<td>Commitment 6: Access and Health Services</td>
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<td>Commitment 7: Reproductive Health Services</td>
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<td>Commitment 8: Morbidity; malaria</td>
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<td>Commitment 9: Child health</td>
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<td>Commitment 10: Literacy</td>
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<td>Commitment 11: Access to drinking water and sewage services</td>
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<td>Commitment 12: Housing stock and crowding</td>
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<td>Commitment 13:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.b. Indicator of Progress related to goals per large areas</td>
<td>1. HEALTH: Life expectancy at birth. Infant mortality rate. Maternal mortality rate. Access to health services.</td>
<td>Measures the relative distance of countries, per social development goals, organized base don areas.</td>
<td>By areas: an index is constructed by area with the exception of 5) INEQUALITY OF WOMEN, deaggregated by variables.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. HOUSING AND SANITATION: Access to drinking water, sewage service, houses with basic sanitation</td>
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<td>3. NUTRITION: Children with low weight at birth, Calorie supply per capita, Prevalance of malnutrition in children under 5.</td>
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<td>4. EDUCATION: Adult literacy rate, Children who reach 5th grade; school life expectancy.</td>
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<td>5. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY: Cumulative quintiles: Gini Index; GDP per capita; percentage of population in poverty situation; HDI; Gender Inequality Index.</td>
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<td>6. CONDITION OF WOMEN: A) HEALTH: (Pregnancies attended; births attended, life expectancy by sex), B) EDUCATION: (Illiteracy by sex; schooling by sex), C) EMPLOYMENT: (Wages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. POLITICAL WILL</td>
<td>Plans, programs and initiatives being undertaken at present by governments in the following areas: 1) PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY; 2) POVERTY AND ADJUSTMENT; 3) EMPLOYMENT; 4) WOMEN AND GENDER INEQUALITY; 5) EDUCATION; 6) MINORS; 7) HEALTH.</td>
<td>Measures: a) existence or non-existence of plans, programs and initiatives, in regard to a set of items by subject, undertaken by governments; b) Number of years plans, policies and programs have been in existence; c) With or without foreign aid.</td>
<td>An indicator is constructed by area selected, by country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.A. Indicator of Plans, Programs and Initiatives</td>
<td>VARIABLES: Percentage of public spending (of GDP) on education, health, social security, job programs, housing, water and sewage.</td>
<td>Measures relative distance to the commitment of 20% of spending being for social programs, by country</td>
<td>An indicator of the distance relative to 20% is obtained, by country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.B. Indicator of Government Social Spending</td>
<td>VARIABLES: Total net official aid for development granted (% GDP)</td>
<td>Measures relative distance to commitment of 0.7% of aid granted by donor countries</td>
<td>An indicator of distance relative to 20% is obtained, according to donor country.</td>
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<td>2.D. Indicator of Ratification of Key Agreements</td>
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Social Watch

**Dimension: Participation and Equity**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ratification of international conventions on human rights which have still not been ratified</td>
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<td>Plan of transitions to democracy in non-democratic nations</td>
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<td>The existence of legal frameworks aimed towards transparency in the public sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programmes for the fortification of co-operativism, communities, mutual support groups, etc.</td>
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<td>Plans to encourage the decentralisation of public services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory framework for the co-ordination of OSC’s and the State</td>
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(1) Laws which penalise acts of public corruption.
(2) Training programmes of the OSC’s for participation in public policies and programmes. Programmes to strengthen the co-operative sector.
(3) Plans to promote OSC participation in local communities and policies. Programmes for the decentralisation of resources, decisions and services. Municipal strengthening programmes.
(4) The creation of regulatory norms for the participation of OSC’s in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies and programmes.

**Dimension: Poverty and Adjustment**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy Programmes associated to the implementation of adjustment policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programmes for the diagnosis of the current situation, the evolution and outlook of poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-ordination with the OSC’s in the implementation of social policies and poverty eradication plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plans of support in income creation and improvement of the poorer populations’ infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social protection networks: Unemployment, Maternity, Old Age, Children, Displaced people, the Disabled, Immigrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plans to Combat Rural Poverty and Encourage the Development of Rural &amp; Agric. Dev.</td>
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</table>

(1) Put into practice national poverty eradication plans. Absolute Poverty Eradication Plans. The co-ordination of policies between countries in order to eliminate poverty.
(2) Governments: the integration of the aims of the war on poverty into their adjustment programmes via: a) analysing policies for their effects on inequality; b) public investment policies on infrastructure and natural resources development to benefit the poor. Measures to protect the GSB (Basic Social Spending). Reduction of the military budget. For donor countries - plans to increase budgets of social programmes by 20%. A commitment to lightening the debt burden.
Support for poverty eradication programmes in Africa.
(3) Requests for and the existence of loans to develop diagnoses on adjustment policies and their impact on poverty. The resolution, to define poverty and the extent of this in 1996. The existence of poverty indicators differentiated according to gender, region, class, ethnic group. The evaluation of poverty eradication plans. The existence of diagnoses on the evolution of poverty. Plans to strengthen national capacity to evaluate and follow the plans in their own context. Measures which incorporate unpaid women’s work as an economic calculation.
(4) Self-help programmes for poor populations. Efforts in co-ordination with OSC’s in programmes for the war on poverty, including the private sector. Integrated cross sector and intergovernmental designs towards this end. Co-operation initiatives between the government, financial entities and civil society organisations.
(5) Includes: Plans for income creation and the productive diversification of the poor populations. Plans for the extension and improvement of the poor populations’ access to infrastructure, energy and sewerage services. Plans for the creation of housing suitable for the poor sectors, favouring the participation of the affected communities, self-help groups, co-operatives and civil society organisations in the design and implementation of the plans. Programmes for the productive diversification of alternative sources of income. Measures for environmental protection which avoid damaging effects on the surroundings of poor populations.
(6) Includes: a) Social protection services for unemployment, maternity, old age; b) Services for the social protection of children, displaced and disabled people; c) Free legal help for low-income people; d) The existence of labour legislation to protect the unemployed, mothers, union leaders, the ill, immigrant workers.
(7) Includes: a) Credit programmes for small companies and farmers; b) Plans to strengthen the organisation of small farmers, co-operative members, landless workers and women; c) Plans to help farmers find alternatives to planting drug-related plants; d) Projects, Plans and Institutions for the implementation of agrarian reform; e) Plans for the economic participation of rural women; f) Plans for the expansion of technology, access to credit and infrastructure, information on markets and prices, for agricultural populations. Access to markets and information on prices; g) Programmes to increase food production; h) Programmes for the removal of obstacles in the access to credit by poor populations, especially rural people and women; i) Plans for rural development; j) Plans for rural development with emphasis on the settling of the rural population. Measures to discourage the rural exodus; k) Sustainable agriculture plans with emphasis on the environment.
### Dimension: Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do they exist?</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Objective population</th>
<th>With/without External aid</th>
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</thead>
</table>

- Employment creation programmes. Includes unionist participation in the programmes
- Anti-unemployment and sub-employment (1) programmes. Includes unionist participation in the programmes
- Support and development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Initiatives to strengthen the co-operative sector.
- The existence of labour legislation to protect the unemployed, mothers, union leaders, the ill, immigrant workers (2)
- Labour Retraining Programmes
- Existence of diagnoses on the work market, which include new measures on the phenomenon of the non-paid domestic labour of women (3)

(1) e.g. in infrastructure works.
(2) Laws which protect the situation of maternity at work, both from the point of view of: a) Maternity leave; b) Protection of the labour rights of pregnant women; c) Legalisation of the rights of migrant workers; d) Existence of social security for illness or dismissal; e) Laws protecting the labour rights of unionists; f) Existence of a minimum age at which children, including girls, are allowed to work in the national legislation, in line with the existing international labour norms and the Convention on the Rights of Children, in all sectors.
(3) Existence of information on the employment market, including information on informal work and sub-employment. The generation of diagnoses on unpaid work, in order to see it included in national accounts.

### Dimension: Women and Gender Inequality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do they exist?</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Objective population</th>
<th>With/without External aid</th>
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</table>

- Initiatives for the involvement of women in public policies (1)
- Programmes to support women in family planning (2)
- Programmes to combat discrimination against women in education and the labour market (3)
- Monitoring of women's rights vis a vis those of men (4)
- Programmes and Support Services for women victims of violence
- Programmes offering support to women living in poverty (5)

(1) e.g.: Management training programmes for high-ranking public posts. The existence of positive discrimination mechanisms to increase the role of women in party politics and the State. The existence of a gender perspective in public policies. Initiatives for female participation in management posts within the health professions, and in the scientific-technical ambit
(2) e.g.: The existence of public nurseries; Laws which increase male responsibility in reproduction (like paternity leave).
(3) e.g.: a) The inclusion of the issue of gender inequality in education; b) monitoring and control over the role given women in the mass media; c) Plans which secure girls' access to education; d) Laws which impede sexual discrimination in access to work; e) Programmes which encourage credit and services for the creation of women's companies and co-operatives.
(4) The existence of property rights equal to those of men. The generation of national mechanisms for the control, evaluation and monitoring of policies established to improve the position of women.
(5) Measurables policies, objectives and aims to improve and broaden the economic opportunities of women and their access to productive resources, especially those women who have no source of income.
### Dimensión: Education

| Plans for the eradication of illiteracy |
| Plans to expand primary and secondary education |
| Permanent education plans (especially for women). Adult Education Programmes |
| Improvement of education infrastructure (schools) in zones where poverty is concentrated, including additional services (nutritional services) |
| Improvement and expansion of pre-school services |
| Introduction of the environmental issue in plans for formal education |
| Educational retraining plans for workers |
| Existence of diagnoses on the educational system |
| Plans to fight discrimination in education (1) |

(1) Includes all the initiatives to eliminate differential gender, ethnic, wealth, etc., based access to education.

### Dimensión: Minorities

| Rights, Laws and Support Services for the Indigenous Communities (1) |
| Laws against racial, ethnic, linguistic discrimination (2) |
| Measures for the protection of displaced people, refugees & immigrant populations (3) |
| Policies for the protection of unprotected children and children in general (4) |

(1) a) Rights of the indigenous populations to political self-determination and the use of their language; b) Land laws for the indigenous populations; c) Support services for the indigenous communities (especially in the provision of health, education, sewage and infrastructure services); d) Laws impeding the occupation of land belonging to native peoples; e) Initiatives to improve the productive capacity of the indigenous peoples.

(2) The existence of legislation which implies positive measures of control on discrimination, e.g.: arbitrage procedures for discrimination related conflicts. The existence of «positive discrimination» laws favouring the access of minorities on the receiving end of discrimination to education and the labour market. Protection measures for people affected by language barriers. Recognition of the languages spoken as official languages.

(3) a) The rights of documented and undocumented immigrants; b) Protection measures for refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers, documented and undocumented migrants; c) International support for the asylum nations (See the [Refugee Statute, 1951](#) and the [Protocol of 1967](#) relating to the Refugee Statute). The existence of organs for requesting asylum.

(4) Includes: a) Programmes to bring child employment to an end; b) Policies to protect unprotected children and street children; c) Support services for one-parent families; d) Support and violence prevention services for children (e.g. the combating of child prostitution).

### Dimensión: Health

| Plans to extend primary health care, especially to the poor populations and those with access problems |
| Mother and child health services. Reproductive health programmes. |
| Programmes to extend the sewerage network and basic infrastructure to the poorest populations |
| AIDS prevention programmes |
| Plans to reduce infant mortality |
| Plans for the rehabilitation of the disabled |
| Drug addiction rehabilitation programmes. The prevention of drug abuse and preventative drug education |
| Malaria eradication plans. Anti-tuberculosis and cholera schemes. |
| Plans to expand access to clean drinking water to the low-income populations |
| Programmes for the rehabilitation of the disabled, with extended access |

|---|---|---|---|