

Sample précis-writing exercise: example of satisfactory summary

Observations

- All of the speaker's main points are included, while minor details are omitted.
- The summary is written in reported speech and is within the word limit.
- The inconsistent spelling of "programme/program" and unidiomatic phrasing (e.g. omissions of articles, subject-verb agreements) have been fixed.
- Original words and phrases used where appropriate (no need to change original wording for the sake of it)

The speaker said that 21 years after the World Summit on Social Development and the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the major challenges of eradicating poverty and addressing social exclusion remained. More recent milestones included the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. Implementation of all of those agreements required the continued commitment and momentum of the United Nations Member States.

The top development priority for his country was to eradicate poverty by empowering the people. A seven-point model had been adopted to improve education, skills and employment, eliminate discrimination and extremism, and promote inclusion and participation. His country had in the previous 20 years improved its social indicators, with sustained GDP growth, greater life expectancy, a lower fertility rate, less people living in poverty, almost universal primary school enrolment and access to safe drinking water, and gender parity in both primary and secondary education. It had also made progress with regard to disability issues, focusing on the right to education of children with disabilities, and supplementing formal learning with skills development to promote self-employment of persons with disabilities.

Achieving the internationally agreed development goals required international cooperation, including north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation, and more cohesion and integration, with a commitment to official development assistance. The welcome progress towards the objectives of the International Year of the Family could strengthen national family-centred policies and programmes. Action was needed to improve the conditions of migrant workers by enforcing labour laws, particularly those relating to pay, health and safety, and the right to freedom of association.

In conclusion, all stakeholders should renew their commitment to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the role of the Commission for Social Development in following up the social dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals should be strengthened.

(327 words)