

2010/12

Promoting social integration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development³³ and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,³⁴

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action³³ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,³⁴ and a continued global dialogue on social issues, constitute a basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling all resolutions pertaining to social development, including General Assembly resolution 64/135 of 18 December 2009,

Reaffirming the central importance of poverty eradication and full and productive employment and decent work for all to social integration,

Recognizing that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of sustainable development to promote social integration and foster social harmony and social cohesion,

Recognizing also that poverty, which should be tackled in a holistic manner, as well as unemployment, and the lack of decent work opportunities, are key obstacles to social integration,

Recognizing further that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Recognizing that, in times of economic and financial crisis, social exclusion can be exacerbated; therefore policies and programmes aiming at enhancing social integration, in particular for those most severely affected, are critical,

Recognizing also that social protection is also an investment in people and in long-term social and economic development, in this regard appropriate social protection systems make a critical contribution to meeting the development goals directed towards poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development,

Recognizing further that the promotion of social and economic development remains the sovereign right and responsibility of each Member State, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethnic values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴¹
2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe, peaceful, harmonious and just societies for all;
3. *Recognizes* that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration are interrelated, and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously, and that policies to pursue these objectives must promote social justice, social cohesion, economic recovery and growth, and be economically and environmentally sustainable;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of promoting social integration with the aim of achieving an inclusive society for all that is stable, safe, peaceful, harmonious and just and that is based on the promotion of and protection of all human rights, as well as non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people;
5. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably, and that in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further

⁴¹ E/CN.5/2010/2.

deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer programmes, job creation and social protection systems, are needed;

6. *Recognizes* that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger;

7. *Recognizes also* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has not been implemented adequately at the national and international levels and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Underlines* the importance of adopting a coherent approach to economic and social policy in order to ensure impact, accountability and transparency, and of enhancing coordination to promote the mainstreaming of social integration;

9. *Recognizes* that normative frameworks should be complemented by policy measures and effective enforcement to eliminate discrimination, including through relevant national legislation, stereotyping, cultural biases, abuse and violence so as to remove barriers to social integration;

10. *Expresses deep concern* that the world financial and economic crisis, the world food crisis and continuing food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change, as well as the lack of results thus far in the multilateral trade negotiations and a loss of confidence in the international economic system, have negative implications for social development, in particular for the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration;

11. *Stresses* that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,⁴² the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond⁴³ and its Supplement,⁴⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁴⁵ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁴⁶ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁴⁷ and encourages Governments to ensure the full implementation of their obligations and commitments;

⁴² *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴³ General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

⁴⁴ General Assembly resolution 62/126, annex.

⁴⁵ General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

⁴⁶ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

⁴⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

12. *Notes with interest* of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 10 June 2008 of the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,⁴⁸ which acknowledges the particular role of the Organization in promoting a fair globalization and its responsibility to assist its members in their efforts, and the adoption of the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact⁴⁹ in June 2009; and in this regard, recognizes that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

13. *Recognizes* that sustainable social integration requires creating short and long-term policies that are comprehensive, consistent, coordinated and complementary, especially when addressing the needs of social groups;

14. *Recognizes* the need to implement comprehensive and coherent policies to create social inclusion programmes, bearing in mind that poverty is a form of exclusion that should be tackled in a holistic manner, and in this regard special attention should be devoted to addressing its multiple dimensions, including the feminization of poverty, leading to further social exclusion, and the intergenerational transmission of poverty and exclusion;

15. *Recognizes* that a people-centred framework for social development is critical to helping to build a culture of cooperation and partnership, and to responding to the global challenges and threats that hinder social integration, social harmony and social cohesion, in order to promote social development throughout the world;

16. *Recognizes also* that social integration policies should be based on respect for human dignity and all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages Governments to implement their social integration policies at the national and local levels, in accordance with their international human rights obligations;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of the effective participation of people in civic, social, economic and political activities as an essential part of promoting social integration, and in this regard encourages Governments to increase the participation of citizens and communities in the planning and implementation of social integration policies and strategies aimed at achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work;

18. *Recognizes* that there is an urgent need to eliminate physical and social barriers with the aim of creating a society accessible for all, with special emphasis on measures to meet the needs and interests of those who face obstacles in participating fully in society;

19. *Stresses* that policies and strategies designed to achieve poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and equal access to opportunities and social protection and foster social integration for social groups,

⁴⁸ A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

⁴⁹ Resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference on 19 June 2009 at its ninety-eighth session, entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact".

such as youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all relevant policies and strategies, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

21. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies, and reaffirms that the provision of basic social services in these areas should be seen as a means of fighting poverty, exclusion and promoting social integration;

22. *Recognizes also* that the new information technologies and new approaches to access to and use of technologies by people living in poverty can help in fulfilling social development goals; and therefore recognizes the need to facilitate access to such technologies;

23. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to education for all, employment, basic social services and health care, including nutrition, water, sanitation and housing, and to address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development, in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

24. *Stresses* the importance of eradicating illiteracy and promoting for all equal access to and opportunities for quality education, skills development and quality training as essential means for participation and integration in society;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of providing effective social protection to achieve equity, equality, inclusion in society and in the labour market, social justice, including solidarity among generations, stability and cohesion of societies;

26. *Takes note* of the joint crisis initiatives launched by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2009 related to the promotion of employment and social protection which aim at advocating for and advising Member States on the provision of social protection floors, boosting full employment and decent work, and public spending in ways that will support the efforts of Member States to promote more inclusive and sustainable social and economic development;

27. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour-market participation, and invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies, including assistance to

countries in building social protection floors and policies on extending social security coverage, and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems;

28. *Encourages* Governments to continue developing socially inclusive policies and incorporating them into national development strategies, including poverty-reduction strategies, and to give due consideration to developing national evaluation frameworks for social development, including possible benchmarks and indicators to measure the social integration and well-being of the population;

29. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, such as civil society organizations, including workers' and employers' organizations, as well as corporations and small and medium-sized businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals and, in this regard, stresses the importance of strong political leadership, adequate financing and technical support;

30. *Encourages* Governments to enable civil society institutions to participate on a consultative basis, in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies related to the social development of all social groups in order to take into account their needs;

31. *Stresses* the importance of a conducive international environment, in particular enhanced international cooperation, to support national efforts towards promoting social integration, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building;

32. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations and development partners to exchange views and share information on good policies and practices for mainstreaming social inclusion into social and economic policies at the national, regional and international levels aimed at achieving equity, equality, social inclusion, protection and cohesion, and recognizes existing efforts in this regard;

33. *Encourages* Governments to participate fully in the discussions on social protection at the one hundredth session of the International Labour Conference in 2011, and at its preparatory meetings;

34. *Requests* the United Nations system to support national efforts to achieve social development, in particular, in fostering social integration at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, in a coherent, coordinated and results-based manner;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session as part of the report under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General that

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the Assembly, in its resolution 64/135, requested be submitted to it at its sixty-fifth session, which should include information related to challenges to and prospects for full implementation by Member States of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly.