

Recommendations: 48th Session Commission on Social Development

NGO Committee for Social Development

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Local Participation and Partnership

That the State, including personnel at all levels, facilitate participation of those affected by policies through participatory strategies in policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The model of local (neighbourhood) parliaments in southern India is an example of one such effective practice (cf., www.kudumbashree.org, www.ncnworld.org.)

Human Rights Framework

Within a strengthened human rights framework that emphasizes equity, social justice, and the dignity of all persons, we urge governments to:

- Ratify international legal instruments that promote human rights
- Adopt strong policies and mechanisms to guarantee that all births be registered
- Facilitate the process for securing land titles and guard the right to own property
- Safeguard the ownership of properties held in common through cultural agreements
- Ensure the right of women and girls to inherit and own land
- Provide ease of access to the judicial system for all
- Address the needs of various groups, inter alia: populations living in rural areas, indigenous peoples, women, youth, older persons, children without parental care, persons transitioning from institutional care, people in post conflict situations, and persons with disabilities

Gender Issues

That governments promote policies and legislation for gender equality, zero tolerance for violence and exploitation of women and girls, adopt strategies to empower women, and promote social inclusion by

- Listening to women
- Creating partnerships
- Addressing cultural barriers
- Ensuring access to education for women and girls
- Addressing the feminization of poverty

Youth and Education

That governments promote a breadth of educational policies and programs to ensure social inclusion:

- Universal primary education
- Access to secondary education
- Special education training for staff working with people with disabilities
- Education of staff of statutory bodies dealing with marginalized populations
- Citizenship education

That governments facilitate the inclusion of all youth by investing in high-quality formal and non-formal education, skills training, health services, access to the labour market, and provide sporting and cultural opportunities and exchanges.

Facilitate the inclusion of youth and initiate a process for practical and inclusive citizenship training for children. We recommend the organizing of locally responsive children's neighbourhood parliaments and their federations as has been done in southern India.

That governments ensure the necessary budget allocations to assist education departments and NGOs to create or enhance already existing programs for in-school acquisition of the host country language for migrant children and adult education language acquisition programs. That intercultural programs that foster mutual appreciation for the richness of one another's traditions and customs be encouraged.

Employment and Social Protection

That governments ensure that everyone has sufficient income to live in dignity and to be able to fully participate in society. Public policies should be enacted to ensure that people have whatever is needed for viable livelihoods:

- The right to decent work and full or adequate employment
- The provision of a social income with social protection
- The protection of trade union rights
- Access to housing, physical and mental health care, social services and education
- Maintenance and integrated delivery of public services
- The prioritising of social finance in national budgets

That governments establish basic social protection schemes for people working in both the formal and informal economies which serve to ensure greater equality, inclusion, stability, and cohesion in society.

Monitoring and Evaluation

That member states develop concrete benchmarks for government agencies to measure social integration at every level of society. We recommend:

- The disaggregation of poverty statistics by inter alia age, gender, geographic location, ethnicity, so that the social integration of and benefits to the marginalised and vulnerable groups in the society can be monitored
- Specific indicators be defined and developed on the national level

Sharing of Good Practices

The role and capacity of non-governmental and community-based organizations, and all stake-holders, especially in partnership with government and the private sector, should be encouraged to actively share good practices that promote social integration in both social and economic policy.

2 February 2010