

THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Expert Group Meeting on Rethinking social development in the
contemporary
world"

Why should you listen to me?

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- Más sabe diablo por viejo que por diablo



My connections with social development

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- First worked with the Division in 1966
- Joined the Secretariat in 1971
- Took a two year secondment to UNDP
- Was in the Division from 1976-1979
- Observed the Division as a member of the Programme Planning and Coordination Office
- Joined the “Centre” in 1987 and observed it until retirement in 1997
- Have done evaluations and consulting with the UN since then



Three periods of social development

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- Period One (1945-1969)
- Period Two (1970-1995)
- Period Three (1996-2014)

Period I. To the Declaration

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- From the Charter to the Declaration
- Combination of ends and means
- Three parts (Principles, objectives, means and methods)
 - ▣ Social Planning
 - ▣ Social Research
 - ▣ Participation
 - ▣ Policies to enjoy human rights
 - ▣ Economic growth
 - ▣ General and complete disarmament

*1792nd plenary meeting,
28 October 1969.*

2542 (XXIV). Declaration on Social Progress and Development

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the pledge of Members of the United Nations under the Charter to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Reaffirming faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms and in the principles of peace, of the dignity and worth of the human person, and of social justice proclaimed in the Charter,

Recalling the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of resolutions of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the standards already set for social progress in the constitutions, conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and of other organizations concerned,

Period II. To the World Summit

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- ❑ Social Survey
- ❑ Popular participation
- ❑ Rural development
- ❑ Technical cooperation
- ❑ Move to Vienna
- ❑ Development Decades
- ❑ Return to New York
- ❑ The Summit



The UN in 1975

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Twenty-fourth session
6-24 January 1975
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT
Note by the Secretary-General

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1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1929 (LVIII). Popular participation and its practical implications for development

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development which, among other things, calls for the adoption of measures to ensure effective participation, as appropriate, of all elements of society in the preparation and execution of national plans and programmes of social and economic development,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes, in which the Council specifically recommended to Governments that appropriate measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population, including the labour force, in the production, preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade which calls for qualitative and structural changes in society and for the promotion of active support and integration of all segments of the population in achieving the objectives of the Decade,

World Summit for Social Development

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B. Principles and goals

25. We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all.

Annex I

COPENHAGEN DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. For the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations, we gather as heads of State and Government to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give to these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century.
2. We acknowledge that the people of the world have shown in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, that affect every country. It is our task to address both their underlying and structural causes and their distressing consequences in order to reduce uncertainty and insecurity in the life of people.
3. We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live throughout our diverse countries and regions. We must do so not only as a matter of urgency but also as a matter of sustained and unshakeable commitment through the years ahead.
4. We are convinced that democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development.
5. We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. This essential interdependence was recognized 50 years ago in the Charter of the United Nations and has since grown ever stronger.
6. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice.

WSSD – Ten Commitments

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- ❑ 1. creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development
- ❑ 2. eradicating poverty in the world
- ❑ 3. promoting the goal of full employment
- ❑ 4. promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just
- ❑ 5. promoting full respect for human dignity and to achieving equality and equity between women and men
- ❑ 6. promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education
- ❑ 7. accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries
- ❑ 8. when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they include social development goals
- ❑ 9. increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development
- ❑ 10. an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development

World Summit for Social Development

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- Four elements
- No time horizon
- No targets
- Mostly national actions
- Commission mandated to review and appraise

United Nations

A/CONF.166/9



World Summit for Social Development

Distr: General
14 March 1995
Original: English/
French/ Spanish

Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development

Contents

Introduction

I. An Enabling Environment for Social Development

II. Eradication of Poverty

III. Expansion of Productive Employment and Reduction of Unemployment

IV. Social Integration

V. Implementation and Follow-up

Introduction

1. The present Programme of Action outlines policies, actions and measures to implement the principles and fulfil the commitments enunciated in the *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development* adopted by the World Summit for Social Development. Our success will be based on the results that we achieve.

Period III. From 1995 to Now

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- 2000: 24th Special Session of the General Assembly
- 2000: Millennium Declaration
 - ▣ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2005: 10 Year review
- 2010: 15 Year review
- 2014: MDG Report

The Millennium Development Goals Report
2014



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17 July 2014

Millennium Development Goals

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- Time horizon: To 2015, with targets
- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5. Improve maternal health
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Commission foci during the period

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Year	Session	Priority theme
2014	52	Empowerment
2013	51	Empowerment
2012	50	Eradication of Poverty
2011	49	Eradication of Poverty
2010	48	Social integration
2009	47	Social integration
2008	46	Promoting full employment and decent work for all
2007	45	Promoting full employment and decent work for all
2006	44	Review of the first United Nations Decade on the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
2005	43	Review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
2004	42	Improving Public Sector Effectiveness
2003	41	National and International Cooperation for Social Development
2002	40	Integration of social and economic policy
2001	39	Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world, including The role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development
2000	38	Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit
1999	37	Social services for all and Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
1998	36	Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons
1997	35	Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods
1996	34	Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty

- Commission has focused on elements of the Programme of Action rather than broader issues
- Focus on means was only in 1999, 2001-2004

Old issues, new priorities

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- ❑ Measuring social progress
- ❑ Research on social development as means and its application
- ❑ Inequality
- ❑ Climate change
- ❑ Conflict
- ❑ Participation

Measuring Social Progress

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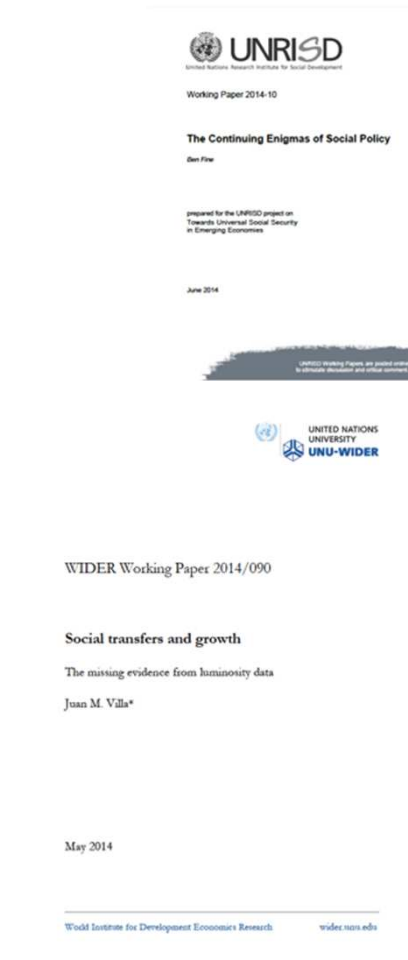
- Human Development Index
- MDG Indices
- Social Progress Index
- Something new?



Research on social development

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- UNRISD research on key issues
- DPSD research
- WIDER and other UN bodies
- Academic research
- How to use it?



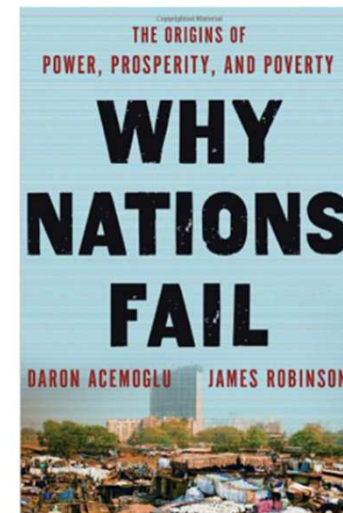
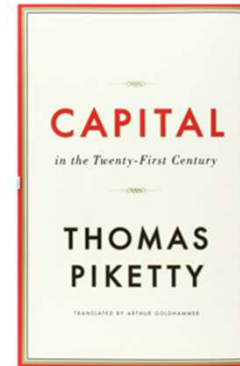
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Inequality

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- Key issue in poverty
- Increasing
- Affects conflict
- How to address it?



Climate change

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- Environment has been an issue for social development since the beginning
- Critical issue today
- Major unrecognized social dimension
- Major human behaviour change needed
- How to get this?

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17 July 2014



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WGII Contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Released



Released 31 March 2014



Popular participation

20

- ❑ Classic type of social development means
- ❑ Part of all intergovernmental documents
- ❑ Has only begun to be studied in the last few years
- ❑ How does it apply to solving post-2015 priorities



Executive Summary

The Expert Group Meeting was convened to help prepare the priority themes for the 2nd session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2014. Using the definition of empowerment provided by the previous EGM in September 2012, the Meeting focused on how ICTs can provide an essential enabling environment for empowerment of all, especially people living in vulnerable situations. In that sense, the growing use of ICTs is a process that can improve the process of participation in decision-making necessary to solve economic and social problems. For this to happen, however, there has to be an expansion in access to modern ICTs, especially broadband and mobile, both generally and particularly by underserved populations. There has to be more research on the key factors in successful use for empowerment. The existing human rights and citizen participatory governance framework can be used to encourage making ICTs available and used for empowerment. The new technologies should be designed to meet user needs, in terms of simplicity and openness, including for older persons, persons with disabilities and other social groups. Experience shows that when governments use ICTs to deliver services and obtain input for decision-making, this is a cost-saving means of improving government services. This, however, needs carefully designed tools and persons trained, at the governmental decision-making level, as well as in the public, to use them effectively. Civil society organizations can also use ICTs to influence decision-making at all levels, including the international level, but must learn to use the tools, especially for monitoring. Finally, ICTs should be used to engage public in the discussions around the new Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and empowerment through ICTs should be included in the strategies to achieve these goals themselves.

Background

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in collaboration with the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), organized an Expert Group Meeting on "E-Participation: Empowering People through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)" from 24 to 25 July at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, as part of the preparation for the 2nd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSD2) that will take place in February 2014 and to promote the 2013 theme of the Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review on "Science, technology and innovation – as well as culture – for sustainable development".

The meeting was convened in the context of draft Resolution 1 in the Report of the Commission for Social Development (E/2012/26) in which the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all". The outcomes of the meeting will provide important inputs to the work of the Commission, in particular contributing to the formulation of policies that have been shown to have a major impact on efforts to promote people's empowerment.

Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on "Promoting People's Empowerment in Achieving Poverty Eradication, Social Integration and Decent Work for All"

10-12 September 2012
United Nations Headquarters, New York

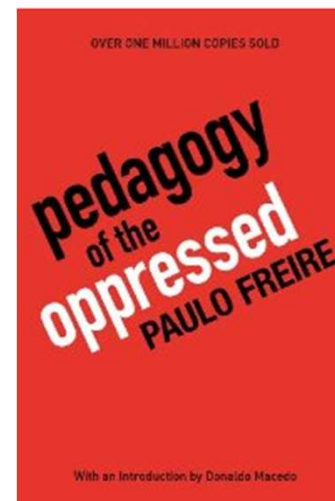
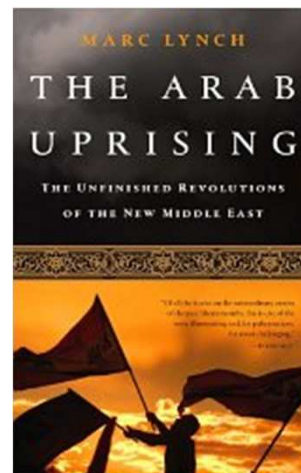
Executive Summary

The Expert Group Meeting was convened to help prepare the priority theme for the 1st session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2013. At the Meeting, it was decided that the most appropriate definition of empowerment was as an iterative process with key components including an enabling environment that enhances human rights, expands choices and enables 'empowered' participation in decision-making that affects the long term achievement of goals like poverty eradication, social integration and decent work for all as well as sustainable development. The enabling environment includes human rights, policies and institutions for their enjoyment, appropriate attitudes and values. Empowered participation takes place at local, national and international levels and can be individual but is usually mediated by institutions such as civil society organizations. There is strong evidence that empowered participation has been effective in making development programmes function well. The Meeting made recommendations to the Commission about next steps to take in order to elaborate new policy approaches that will link its work on empowerment to the on-going work on the social pillar of the Rio + 20 Summit and developing post-2015 goals and objectives.

Background

The Meeting was convened in the context of draft Resolution 1 in the Report of the Commission for Social Development (E/2012/26) in which the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all". The outcomes of the meeting will provide important inputs to the work of the Commission, in particular contributing to the formulation of policies that have been shown to have a major impact on efforts to promote people's empowerment.

Given that the mandate of the Commission for Social Development (CSD) is the follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly, and taking into account its choice for the priority theme of its 2013-14 cycle, the Expert Group Meeting on empowerment focused on: (1) A practical definition of empowerment relevant to achieving the three core objectives of social development (as the Commission mandate); (2) A review of what has been achieved so far in promoting the economic, social and political empowerment of people and social groups, and (3) An evidence-based set of policy recommendations to promote the empowerment of people. The Expert Group Meeting




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17 July 2014

Where Next?

- Post-2015
 - 17 Goals
 - Over 100 indicators
 - Undefined (so far) means
- Role of the Commission for Social Development



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OWG-12

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SUMMARY OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 16-20 JUNE 2014

The twelfth session of the UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) took place from 16-20 June 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and Csaba Körösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary, continued in their roles as Co-Chairs of the OWG at the second to last session of the OWG, which is mandated to develop a set of sustainable development goals and targets.

OWG-12 represented the first OWG meeting during which delegates worked primarily in informal sessions. Following opening remarks during a formal session on Monday morning, delegates considered proposed goals 7-17 in informal sessions during day and evening sessions from Monday through Friday. The discussion on goals 1-6 had taken place in “informal-informal” consultations from 9-11 June. The Co-Chairs also presented a set of revised goals, based on the informal-informal discussions, for comment on Monday night. On Tuesday night, the Co-Chairs distributed a new set of targets for proposed goal 1 on ending poverty. However, delegates said they did not want to discuss any revisions until they had a chance to review the complete package of revised goals and targets.

On Friday afternoon, Co-Chair Kamau opened the second formal session of OWG-12, noting that the Group had made “amazing progress” during the week. He announced that there would be another set of “informal-informals” from 9-11 July, to be followed by the final meeting of the OWG from 14-18 July. He said a revised version of the zero draft should be ready by 30 June, and that it will have fewer targets, and be a more refined, balanced and “righter” document. He expressed the Co-Chairs’ confidence that the OWG will successfully conclude its work on 18 July and agree on a set of goals and targets.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OWG

During the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, governments agreed to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs. They called for establishing an OWG that is transparent and open to stakeholders, and comprised of 30 representatives from the

five UN regional groups, nominated by UN Member States, to elaborate a proposal for SDGs. They also called on the OWG to submit a report to the 68th session of the Assembly, containing a proposal for SDGs for consideration and appropriate action.

The Rio+20 outcome document outlines, *inter alia*:

- the importance of remaining firmly committed to the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and of respecting all Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities;
- the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, and focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development;
- the need to ensure coordination and coherence with the processes considering the post-2015 development agenda, and to receive initial input to the OWG’s work from the UN Secretary-General in consultation with national governments;
- the need to assess progress towards the achievement of the goals, accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development; and
- the importance of global, integrated and scientifically-based information on sustainable development and of supporting regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs to inform this global effort.

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