

Concept Note
DPI NGO Youth Representatives
56th Session of the Commission for Social Development Side Event
“Leaving No One Behind: A Lens on Practices that Strengthen Inclusivity in Poverty Alleviation”

Tuesday, 30 January 2018, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Conference Room D

Overview:

To truly alleviate poverty in a sustained manner, more must be done to ensure no one is left behind; special emphasis being placed on providing accessible spaces for marginalized and vulnerable communities to be involved in decision making, creating policies that protect the inherent human dignity of all, and strengthening programmes that work to empower and transform those affected by poverty. The more we invest in communities that lack formalized voices, such as youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities, the more inclusivity we create: thus, shedding light on challenges faced by those often left behind. Because the needs of each community are unique, no panacea exists for poverty alleviation. However, lessons can be derived from various case studies of working with communities affected by poverty, and can be adapted towards empowering marginalized populations to create meaningful change locally.

The panel seeks to highlight the work member states, UN entities, the NGO community, and youth leaders are doing together to empower vulnerable populations to become agents of change in alleviating poverty. Additionally, the panel will, explore how to better engage with member states and UN entities on the issues of poverty alleviation and shed light on the challenges and successes experienced implementing best practices.

Organizers: NGO Youth Representatives to the Department of Public Information (DPI)

The United Nations Department of Public Information values the participation and contribution of youth, in particular those working within and leading non-governmental organizations. DPI engages youth mainly through its NGO Youth Representatives Programme, which serves as an advocacy platform to bring together young people ages 18 to 32 working within and/or leading NGOs and youth-led organizations formally associated with the department and focused on UN issues. Additionally, the Department's NGO Youth Representatives Steering Committee advises and supports the DPI on strategies to engage young people on advocacy and outreach activities related to the work of the United Nations.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of the challenges faced by members of vulnerable communities;
- Strategies to build and strengthen partnerships to promote inclusiveness and accessibility when implementing poverty alleviation programs;
- Best practices on how to engage and empower youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations; and
- Information on networks, youth led initiatives, knowledge sharing platforms and opportunities for further engagement.

Moderator: Mary Fernandez, World Blind Union

Invited Speakers:

- Quemuel Arroyo, Policy Analyst for Accessibility and ADA Coordinator at the NYC Department of Transportation
- Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Youth Social Entrepreneur
- Dejan Bojanic, Vice President, European Youth Forum

Accessibility Services: Sign Language Interpreter//Assistance for the visually impaired//Wheelchair Access