



Commission for Social Development Fifty-fifth session

Concept Note

Panel discussion on emerging issues

“Promoting Integrated Policies for Poverty Eradication: Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda”

Thursday, 2 February 2017, 10:00am – 1:00 pm
Conference Room 4

1. Background

Pursuant to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 2006/18, the Commission for Social Development has included the agenda item ‘Emerging issues’ in its work programme since its 2007 -2008 review and policy cycle. Under this agenda item, the Commission addresses current issues affecting social development requiring urgent consideration or new cross-cutting issues in the context of evolving global development challenges. In selecting the theme in recent years, the Bureau of the Commission also takes into full consideration the annual themes of the Economic and Social Council in order to better align its work with that of the Council, as called for in General Assembly resolution 68/1.

In September 2015, Member States adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The new Agenda continues to place the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions at the centre of global development, while giving greater emphasis on an integrated approach to sustainable development and pledging to leave no one behind. It forms the new context in which social development will be promoted, namely as an integral component in the implementation of the commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The newly adopted 2030 Agenda also identified priorities for youth development around the world. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals depends on Governments addressing national priorities by taking ownership of the agenda and turning the framework into measurable policies and action. Robust, innovative and progressive youth policies serve to capture and concretize these goals and provide a framework for their implementation to enable young people to fulfil their potential as active members of society. The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General Assembly provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world. The WPAY covers fifteen youth priority areas and contains proposals for action in each of these areas, including through the development of national youth policies.

2. Context

There were 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years globally in 2015, accounting for one out of every six people worldwide. By 2030, the target date for the sustainable development goals, the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion. In most regions youth populations have stabilized. In contrast, in Asia, home to most youth than any other region, the number of young people is expected to decline in the coming years. In Africa, the number of youth was 226 million in 2015 and is growing rapidly. By 2030, it is projected that the number of youth in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent. Africa's youth population is expected to continue to grow throughout the remainder of the 21st century, more than doubling from current levels by 2055.

Youth development is a key driver of poverty eradication around the world. Among the greatest challenges facing many countries today are inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates among youth. Young people should acquire the education and skills needed to contribute in a productive economy, and they need access to a job market that can absorb them into its labour force. Yet, some countries are struggling currently to educate and employ their young people, while also anticipating substantial growth in the number of youth. These countries will be doubly challenged in their efforts to assure universal high-quality education, productive employment and decent work for all.

Against this background, the Bureau of the Commission decided on "Promoting Integrated Policies for Poverty Eradication: Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda" as the topic of emerging issues of the 55th Commission session, which also echoes the theme of the high-level segment of ECOSOC in 2016. The selection of this topic acknowledges that how the 2030 Agenda is translated into national policies and strategies and implemented and monitored plays a key role in its success in terms of promoting inclusion and participation and in advancing a comprehensive vision of social development.

The panel discussion will be informed by the Note by the Secretariat on the Emerging issues, "Promoting Integrated Policies for Poverty Eradication: Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda" (E/CN.5/2017/7).

3. Objectives

The panel discussion will provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas that are strategically important for youth development and the Commission. Drawing on a Note by the Secretariat on Emerging Issues and the insights of experts, the overall objective of the panel is to discuss the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, examining how existing and newly adopted frameworks for development can contribute to and enhance development efforts and outcomes for youth.

Specifically, the panel aims to:

- 1) Provide an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to discuss key aspects of youth development addressed in the WPAY and the 2030 agenda and how these existing

and newly adopted frameworks contribute to and enhance youth development efforts.

- 2) The panel will discuss how to achieve improved outcomes for youth through innovative thinking, strategies, and approaches, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels, including approaches which pay particular attention to the most marginalized/vulnerable youth;
- 3) Explore how the Commission for Social Development could contribute to the review of progress in the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development;

4. Structure and format of the panel discussion

The Chair of the Commission will open the meeting with brief remarks and introduce the moderator, who will conduct the interactive panel discussion.

The moderator will set the stage and stimulate an interactive discussion between the panellists and the participants.

The outcomes of the discussions will be reflected in the Chair's summary, which will be one of the key inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the ECOSOC, in particular, its high-level segment under the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".

5. Composition of the Panel

The panel will consist of six panelists and a moderator. Panelists will be invited among Member States, government officials, regional organizations, academia, subject experts and representatives of civil society, in particular youth civil society, taking into consideration gender and geographical balance as well as the need to include youth representatives.

6. Guiding questions

The Commission for Social Development may wish to consider the following questions in its deliberations on the emerging issue at its fifty-fifth session:

- 1) What is the current state of youth development and youth policies at global, regional, and national levels in areas highlighted by Agenda 2030 and the WPAY?
- 2) How is youth development a driver for poverty eradication? What are some innovative approaches and strategies, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels? How can these be used to address the needs of the most marginalised youth in ensuring no one is left behind?
- 3) What are some recommendations for sustainable youth development and successful youth policies, such as evidence informed policies and the inclusion of youth in the policy process and youth mainstreaming?
- 4) What role do alliances and partnerships play in these initiatives?
- 5) How does youth development, as a driver of poverty eradication, contribute to the review of progress in the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development?

- 6) How can ICTs and new technologies be harnessed in the implementation of the SDGs, particularly by and for youth, as a means to enhancing youth development outcomes?

7. Time allocation

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	2 minutes
Moderator: introduction/context-setting	5 minutes
Panellists (6): Presentations	5-7 minutes
Moderated interactive discussion	Interventions limited to 3 minutes, followed by responses from panellists.
Concluding remarks by moderator Closing by the Chair	5 minutes
	Total duration: 3 hours

Panellists

H. E. Ms. Sophie Karmasin, Austrian Federal Minister of Families and Youth

Mr. Santiago Soto, National Director of the National Institute of Youth, Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay

Ms. Gemma Wood, Youth Development Consultant

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Ms. Nevena Vukašinović, Secretary General at ENGSO Youth (Serbia)-Sports

Moderator

Ms. Vivian Onano, the Partnerships Manager at SEED Project, Global Youth Ambassador for Water Aid, and Vice-Chair of Global Youth Empowerment Fund Board of Trustees

Discussant (from the floor)

Mr. Mark Kamperhoff, Head of Unit EU Coordination, International Affairs, EU Delegate, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany

Profiles of Speakers

H. E. Ms. Sophie Karmasin has been Austrian Federal Minister of Families and Youth since December 2013. Before taking up her political mandate she was working in the field of market and opinion research as the managing partner of the Austrian Gallup Institute / Dr. Karmasin Marktforschung Ltd and Karmasin Motivforschung Ltd. She has a Ph.D. in Psychology.

Mr. Santiago Soto is a National Director of the National Institute of Youth (INJU) of the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay. Mr. Santiago Soto is an Economics and Political Science graduate. Mr. Soto has worked for the past eight years in the public sector in the design and implementation of social policies directly linked to children, adolescents and youth development. He has coordinated projects with international founding (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, IDB).

Ms. Gemma Wood is a Youth Development Consultant. She is a Statistician and Youth Development Consultant with over 17 years of experience in research and consulting roles in the private, public and NGO sectors. Since 2006 Gemma has focused on statistical and demographic research and analysis for better measurement of disadvantage and to support policy initiatives designed to improve the delivery of human services both globally and in Australia. Her focus over the last 2 years has been on measuring youth development for use in evidence-based policy and in particular on the youth dividend phenomenon. She has worked on the Global Youth Development Index (YDI) as well as the Indonesian Youth Development Index (YDI) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) YDI. Drawing upon her experience in Australian television and film industries, she also acted as the media liaison officer and spokesperson for the public release of research findings.

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif took up her duties as Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO on 16 February 2015. She is the holder of a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (1987) from Balliol, Oxford University and a Master's in Public Policy (1991) from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Prior to joining UNESCO, she served (2007-2014) as Assistant Director-General/Regional Director of the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Arab States, based in Beirut, Lebanon. Previously she worked at UNDP, where she started her UN career in 1991, serving in Libya (1992-1995), Lebanon (2000-2004), Iraq (2003) and at Headquarters in New York (1995-2000, 2005-2006). As a development economist and practitioner, she serves in an advisory capacity on several boards, notably the Boards of Trustees of Birzeit University and the Human Development NGO, Taawon.

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan is the first-ever United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. He assumed office in February 2013. A strong youth advocate at the national, regional and international levels, Mr. Alhendawi was described by the UN Secretary-General as "the youngest senior official at the United Nations". He previously worked as the Youth Policy Advisor in the League of Arab States. Prior to this, he served as a Team Leader for the National Youth Policy Project in Iraq, a Youth Programme Associate at the Iraq office of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and as the Emergency Programme Officer at the non-governmental organization Save the Children.

Ms. Nevena Vukašinović serves as Secretary General for L'Organisation Européenne Non-Gouvernementale des Sports ENGSO Youth and as Focal Point for Science Policy

Interface at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth. Her main topics are humanitarian innovation, sustainable development and inclusion via new technologies, culture and sports. Ms. Vukašinović is executive board member of the International School Sport Federation as President of Youth Council; Belgrade Initiative for Digital and Public Diplomacy and One Young World Belgrade. Focused on youth dimension within UN – IOC cooperation, she has founded Youth Sport World and initiated a long-term programme "Road to 2030 - SDGs through sport with youth". She is fostering usage of hackathons and new IT tools across Europe for developing solutions among youth. Nominated by the Olympic Committee of Serbia, she is appointed to serve as Women Delegate for Europe within the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC). Ms. Vukašinović is an alumna of the International Olympic Academy, BAMERC and UNA Serbia. Prior to her career in international development, she has been active as an athlete. Ms. Vukašinović holds a master's degree in International Relations.

Ms. Vivian Onano is the Partnerships Manager at SEED Project, Global Youth Ambassador for Water Aid, and Vice-Chair of Global Youth Empowerment Fund Board of Trustees. Ms. Onano is a 25-year-old women and girls' advocate and youth leader who was born and raised in rural Kenya. New African Woman Magazine featured her as one of the "30 under 30: Faces Changing Africa Now" and Forbes Woman Africa profiled her as "One to Watch". Ms. Onano is a recipient of the 2016 MTV Africa Award under category "Africa Re-imagined" for her relentless work as a youth advocate and leader. She has a vision and dream to help create an inclusive world for everyone.

Mr. Mark Kamperhoff of Germany has worked for the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth since 2009. He currently acts as head of the division for EU coordination and International Affairs. From 2012 to 2016, he worked at the German Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels where he headed the corresponding unit for Family Affairs and Youth Policy. His main task there was the representation of the interests of the German government at EU level. Mr. Kamperhoff is therefore closely engaged in the elaboration as well as in the implementation of related policies at national and international level.