Expert Group Meeting:

Promoting people’s empowerment in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and productive and decent work for all

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UN Headquarters
New York

10-12 September 2012
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HONORARY MEMBERS
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A **SHARED SOCIETY** is a **socially cohesive** society. It is **stable**, **safe**. It is where all those living there feel at home. It respects everyone’s dignity and **human rights**, while providing every individual with **equal opportunity**. It is **tolerant**. It respects diversity. A shared society is **constructed and nurtured through strong political leadership**.
The term **SHARED SOCIETY** indicates the way of life, culture, values, customs practices and benefits of the society are not *owned* by any one group but *belong* to all.
The Shared Societies Project: Building a World Safe for Difference

I Locating Responsibility of Social Cohesion Within Government Structures
II Creating Opportunities for Consultation
III Monitor Structures and Policies to Ensure they support Shared Societies
IV Ensure the Legal Framework Protects the Rights of Individuals
V Deal with Inequalities and Disadvantages of those Discriminated Against
VI Ensure that Physical Environment Creates Opportunities for Interaction
VII An Education System that Demonstrates a Commitment to Shared Societies
VIII Initiate a Process to Encourage the Creation of Shared Vision of Society
IX Promote Respect and Understanding and Appreciation of Diversity
X Take Steps to Reduce Tension and Hostility
Principles Underlying a Shared Society

- **Equality of Opportunity**
- **Absence of Discrimination**
- **Opportunities for Participation**
- **Respect for the Dignity of Everyone**
In addition to the organizers, representatives of the following organizations took part in drafting the Global Shared Societies Agenda:

• Asian Development Bank
• G20 Mexican Presidency
• International Labour Organization
• International Monetary Fund (IMF)
• International Trade Union Confederation
• Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
• UN Children’s Fund
• UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs
• UN Development Programme
• UN Regional Commissions (ECLAC and ESCWA)
• UN Women
• World Bank.
Objectives of the Agenda:

- To create agreement that the social dimension should be a part of macroeconomic and financial policymaking.
- To create consensus that policies should be audited for their impact on social inclusion by those who issue and implement them.
- To contribute to the reduction of excessive inequality and to promote social cohesion.
- To enable phased implementation on national, regional, and global levels.
National Areas of Public Policy

- Expenditure
- Taxation
- Monetary policy
- Social protection
- Education and health
- Labor market institutions
- Gender mainstreaming (including women’s empowerment)
- Voice and participation in decision making
- Social indicators
Regional and Global areas of policy

• International monetary system
• Sovereign debt restructuring
• International tax cooperation
• Financial and macroeconomic regulation and supervision
Some Recommendations for Political Action on the National Level

Voice and Participation in Decision-Making

• Promote transparent audits of economic and social policies followed by concrete commitments and action.

• Ensure accountability of leaders regarding the objectives of shared societies.

• Foster and invest in empowerment for all sectors to participate without conforming to a dominant culture.

• Increase the use of polls, consultations, town hall meetings and referenda as well as modern electronic media, to allow wider participation by the whole population.
Some Recommendations for Political Action on the Regional and Global Level

International Monetary System

Promote governance reforms to guarantee appropriate voice and representation for all countries and proper policy coordination between countries.

Financial and Microeconomic Regulation and Supervision

Further broaden and democratize the membership and representation in the Bank of International Settlement and Financial Stability Board to promote a well-functioning network of national and regional authorities, with appropriate coordinating powers given to the apex of the system.
To download a copy of the Global Shared Societies Agenda, please visit


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THANK YOU

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