

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
Division of Social Policy and Development (DSPD)  
in collaboration with UNESCO and UN-HABITAT

**Expert Group Meeting**  
**“Creating an Inclusive Society: Practical strategies to promote  
social integration**

10 - 13 September 2007, Paris

**Annotated Agenda**

**10 September 2007**

8:30-9:00            **Registration**

9:00-9:45            **Opening session**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General  
Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

Mr. Mohamed Halfani, Officer In-charge  
Urban Development Branch & Chief, Urban Governance Section  
UN-Habitat

Mr. Sergei Zelenev, Chief  
Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Moderator: Mr. Wataru Iwamoto, Director  
Division of Social Sciences Research and Policy, UNESCO

9:45 – 10:15        **Introductory Session: objectives and expected outcomes of the  
meeting and introductions of the participants**

10:15-10:30        **Break**

10:30-12:30        **Session I: Where are we today? Social inclusion as a major issue in  
contemporary societies**

Moderator: Sergei Zelenev, DESA

Introductory remarks: Göran Therborn<sup>1</sup>.

*Questions for discussion:*

- What is social inclusion and why it is important?
- What factors make an inclusive society possible?
- What are the obstacles to social inclusion?
- What approaches could be used for promoting social inclusion at the national and local levels?
- How is the cultural diversity ensured in the course of the social inclusion?

*Roundtable discussion*

12:30-14:00

**Lunch break**

14:00–15:30

**Session II: Overcoming exclusion: promoting inclusive institutions and facilitating participation**

Moderator: Elisabeth Barot

Introductory remarks: Sangeetha Purushotoman  
Brad Meyer and Hamid Senni

*Questions for discussion:*

- Why social exclusion is so persistent? Why many social groups and individuals are unable to participate in a society in a meaningful way?
- What policies could be promoted to prevent disintegration and fragmentation of social fabric and a loss of social cohesion? How to promote participatory process and action for inclusion?
- Lessons learned from successful interventions
- What is the role of education to promote social inclusion?

*Roundtable discussion*

15:30-16:00

**Break**

16:00-17:45

**Session III: Participatory dialogue as a tool for creating an inclusive society**

Moderator: Zachary Metz

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<sup>1</sup> For experts' title, affiliated institution, please see "**list of participants**". For expert's profile, please see "**Expert's Profile**".

Introductory remarks: Minu Hemmati

*Questions for discussion*

- How to ensure unity within diversity?
- What are the appropriate ways to strike a balance between specific interventions aimed at conflict prevention/peace building and a more general mainstreaming approach?
- What are the best ways to build effective partnerships: between governments and Civil Society Organizations; public and private sectors; international organizations and Civil Society Organizations and research institutions/academia, etc.
- Lessons learned

*Discussion*

17:45-17:55 *Wrap-up by the Rapporteurs of Day 1 discussions*

18:00-19:00 Cocktail reception hosted by UNESCO

## **11 September 2007**

9.00-10.30 **Session IV: Bringing together communities of policy-makers, researchers and practitioners: enhancing social science-social policy nexus**

Moderator: Wataru Iwamoto, UNESCO

Introductory remarks: John Crowley, UNESCO  
Gary Belkin

*Questions for discussion:*

- What kind of tools could be used to translate social research into policy action?
- What types of policy intervention are needed in countries at different stages of development?
- How the dialogue and exchange of good practices could be facilitated at the national and regional levels?

Presentation of national case studies and discussion

10.30-10.45 **Break**

10.45-12.30

**Session V: The Right to the City: Citizenship Dimensions of Social Inclusion**

Moderator: Elizabeth Johnston

Introductory remark: Paul Taylor, UN-HABITAT  
Wataru Iwamoto, UNESCO

*Questions for discussion:*

- How does the promotion of citizenship contribute to social integration in practice? Is citizenship an effective alternative approach to the legal enshrinement of rights, or just an adjunct to it?
- What are the challenges in exercising the Right to the City? How can it be promoted effectively? Who are the key actors?

12.30- 14.00

**Lunch break**

14.00-15.30

**Session VI: Ways and means to develop national capacities for inclusive policy processes**

Moderator: Aki Stavrou

Introductory remarks: Glenda Wildschut  
Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, DESA

*Questions for discussion:*

- How to create an enabling environment for social inclusion?
- What roles different stakeholders can and should play? How different actions could be coordinated for efficient follow-up?
- What are possible strategies to enhance national capacities?
- How effective are these strategies and what are the criteria for effectiveness?
- What are the lessons from experiences of successful and unsuccessful practices?

15.30-16.00

**Break**

16.00-17.45

**Session VII. Role of local governments in promoting political, social and economic inclusion and participation**

Moderator: Edesio Fernandes

Introductory remarks: Cezar Busatto

*Questions for discussion:*

- How can society ensure that the diverse interests of citizens are represented in the decision-making process that affects their lives?
- What specific roles can local governments play to promote social inclusion?
- How to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders in policy design and implementation? How to balance policies targeting specific social groups and mainstreaming efforts?
- How to harmonize the economic development with social cohesion at local level?

*Discussion*

17.45-18.00      *Wrap-up by the Rapporteurs of Day 2 discussions*

**12 September 2007**

09.00-10.30      **Session VIII. Review of approaches and methods to measure social inclusion and cohesion**

Moderator:              Mari Fitzduff

Introductory Remarks: Eric Marlier (EU social indicators as essential tools for cooperation in the field of social (inclusion) policy”)

Julie Newton

*Questions for discussion:*

- How could we assess the levels of social inclusion within and across societies? (i.e., institutions, procedures and mechanisms)
- Which existing methodologies can be recommended to measure social inclusion and cohesion? What are their strengths and weaknesses?
- What are the existing indicators that could be used for this purpose?

*Discussion*

10.30-10.45      **Break**

10:45–12:00

**Session VIII. Review of approaches and methods to measure social inclusion and cohesion (Continued)**

Moderator: Mari Fitzduff

Introductory remarks: Margaret Lombe  
Martin Ängeby  
Mohamed Halfani (UN-HABITAT's experiences in developing and applying indicators)

*Questions for discussion:*

Policy goals and monitoring requirements in the area of social inclusion

- What mechanism or process would be useful in identifying national priorities in the area of social cohesion?
- How to reconcile what is needed and what is feasible?
- What lessons could be drawn from experiences of local government?
- What are the experience of UN-HABITAT and UNESCO in promoting inclusive practices and measuring inclusion?
- What are feasible options for monitoring the progress in this area?

12.00 – 14.00

**Lunch break**

14 00- 15.30

**Session IX: Discussions in the working groups:**

- What types of mechanisms or processes could be most productive in creating and sustaining an inclusive society?
- What capacities are needed to develop and apply policies, and a concomitant legal framework, that would create an inclusive society?
- What types of methodology and indicators are most useful and appropriate in measuring social inclusion and social cohesion?
- How can effective systems of monitoring, evaluation and accountability be developed?
- How does the concept of developing and sustaining social inclusion/cohesion apply in fragile or post-conflict societies and what special measure may be needed?

**Preparation of draft recommendations**

A: Working group

B: Working group

C: Working group

15.30-15.45            **Break**

15.45 – 17.45.        **Session IX: Continuation of working group discussions**

17:45-18:00           *Wrap-up by the Working groups Rapporteurs of Day 3 discussions*

### **13 September 2007**

9.00-10.30            **Session X: Policy recommendations: what should be done at the national, regional and international levels**

Moderator: Sergei Zelenev, DESA

Presentations of the working groups

Discussion

10.30-10.45            **Break**

10.45-12.30           **Continuation of session X**

12:30 -13:00           **Discussion on follow-up: A way forward**  
Moderator: Makiko Tagashira, DESA

13:00 – 14:00        **Lunch**

14:00 – 14:30        **Finalization and adoption of recommendations**

14:30 – 15:00        **Conclusion and closing**

15.30                    **Bon voyage!!**

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