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Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC Plenary)

ECOSOC Plenary

Committee Staff

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Agenda

I.   Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

II.   Social and Economic Integration through Sustainable Urbanization

III.   Fostering Sustainable Development Practices through Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Resolutions / Report Segments adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ECOSOC/1/1	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/2	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/3	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/4	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/5	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/6	Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report of Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC Plenary)

The Economic and Social Council Plenary held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
II. Fostering Sustainable Development Practices through Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
III. Social and Economic Integration through Sustainable Urbanization

The session was attended by representatives of 46 countries. The first session opened with several statements concerning the adoption of the agenda. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda in the order I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Mainstreaming Youth in the Post - 2015 Development Agenda."

During the Monday evening session, the Dais received the first working papers. On Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 9 working papers dealing with sub-topics such as youth integration and policy making, mental healthcare awareness and accessibility among youth, bettering education through technology, as well as combating violence against youth. Delegates were eagerly cooperating and a working paper merge was already in process in the afternoon session. The atmosphere of the committee was dominated by determination and enthusiasm, which continued throughout the entire day.

By Wednesday, the Dais had accepted six draft resolutions, one of which received a friendly amendment. Followed by successful motions for the adoption by acclamation, all of the draft resolutions had been unanimously approved. The resolutions addressed a wide range of issues, including education, health, good governance, peace and stability. Once voting procedure concluded, the body immediately engaged in debate on the second topic, "Social and Economic Integration through Sustainable Urbanization." Two working papers had been submitted to the Dais before the adjournment of the meeting. The committee proved to be diligent, collaborative and productive, showing the readiness and the belief of the delegates towards the issues at hand.

Code: ECOSOC/1/1
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development

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1 *The Economic and Social Council*,
2
3 *Recognizing* that the Millennium Declaration highlights issues of health such as the provision of health services and
4 the dissemination of health education,
5
6 *Guided by* the fact that mental health has been omitted from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and
7 healthcare agenda but should be addressed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda,
8
9 *Affirming* the need for education on health issues and resources for youth, as outlined by the World Programme of
10 Action for Youth (WPAY),
11
12 *Fully aware* that the World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a state of well-being in which
13 every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively
14 and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community,
15
16 *Appreciating* WHO's Mental Health Action Plan as a framework that addresses mental health issues within the
17 global youth population, and can improve the development of youth in the future,
18
19 *Keeping in mind* that, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN DESA)
20 Mental Health Matters document, about 20 percent of the global youth population experience*s* a mental health issue
21 every year, which can be triggered by traumatic events, conflict situations, and experiences with bullying and
22 discrimination,
23
24 *Recalling* that UN DESA has recommended the implementation of international programs and curriculums such as
25 the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Program, the Coping Power Programme, the Positive
26 Behaviour Intervention Supports (PBIS) Program, and the LifeSkills Training Program that contribute to mental
27 stability and improvement among youth in schools,
28
29 *Acknowledging* the importance of the newly founded World Health Organization QualityRights Toolkit, which
30 advocates against the abuse of persons with mental health conditions,
31
32 *Gravely concerned* that one in three victims of human trafficking is a young person, with the majority being women
33 and girls, as reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Trafficking Report of
34 2014,
35
36 *Considering* that victims of human trafficking, especially young girls, often have to deal with sexual exploitation,
37 forced labor, servitude and slavery, resulting in long-lasting mental disorders,
38
39 *Noting with deep concern* the high rate of post-traumatic stress disorder following gender-based sexual violence,
40
41 *Taking note* that mental health conditions during pregnancy and childbirth are common, especially in younger years,
42 as outlined by the WHO's document on Improving Maternal Mental Health,
43
44 *Recognizing* that the UNODC has created a Youth Initiative to combat drug abuse within the youth population,
45
46 1. *Strongly urges* all nations to make youth mental illnesses a priority and to create legislation pertaining to mental
47   health problems in their youth populations;
48
49 2. *Recommends* that Member States utilize resources and information available from the international community
50   in order to implement mobile mental health clinics that would provide immediate counseling and psychological

51   services to young people in situations that involve natural disasters, conflicts or wars, or internally displaced
52   persons and refugees;
53

54 3. *Invites* medical professionals from the World Health Organization for the mobile health clinics who would train
55   and brief volunteers on issues of mental health in the youth population and how to care for young patients in
56   these emergency situations;
57

58 4. *Encourages* the expansion of the ongoing Mental Health Action Plan, established by the WHO, to raise, not
59   only local, but international awareness for mental health in youth that focus on:
60

61   a. Eliminating the stigma and discrimination surrounding youth that suffer from mental health problems;
62

63   b. Preventing mental health issues in the youth population by becoming more knowledgeable about risk
64   factors of mental illnesses and how to find treatment and providing spaces for discussion and
65   teamwork;
66

67   c. Promoting inclusivity among youth for the betterment of the post-2015 development agenda;
68

69 5. *Urges* Member States to disseminate the information from this awareness campaign to the youth population,
70   which can be done through education systems and local health organizations;
71

72 6. *Draws Attention* to the need for long-term mental health programs such as counseling and social services in
73   primary and secondary schools that can help youth that are abused or bullied, which can be implemented in
74   nations by utilizing programs such as:
75

76   a. The Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Program, which implements behavioral and
77   emotional learning curriculum into elementary schools;
78

79   b. The Coping Power Programme, which is a school-based program designed for students that display
80   issues of mental health;
81

82   c. The Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports (PBIS) Program, which takes an approach teaching
83   students about respect and the importance of positive behavior;
84

85 7. *Urges* the collaboration of intergovernmental organizations and private nongovernmental organizations to aid in
86   the formation and expansion of permanent care and resource centers for youth, including, but not limited to,
87   young mothers, victims of gender-based violence, and survivors of human trafficking which can provide
88   services such as:
89

90   a. Advice and counseling;
91

92   b. Psychological screenings;
93

94   c. Physical care;
95

96   d. Suggestions for further treatment;
97

98 8. *Supports* the expansion of UNODC's Youth Initiative, which can be done by:
99

100   a. Utilizing social media or mass advertisements to raise awareness on the negative effects of drug use
101   and abuse;
102

103   b. Creating partnerships with outside organizations that focus on youth drug prevention;
104

105   c. Establishing empowerment events that can allow for former young drug users to seek help and
106   solidarity;

107   d.   Organizing workshops such as The LifeSkills Training Program, which strives to lower substance
108   abuse in youth and to promote skill building.

Code: ECOSOC/1/2
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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1 *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3 *Emphasizing* the link between means of mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda and developing
4 policies and programs to prevent youth violence as suggested in the Colombo Declaration of Youth,
5
6 *Noting with concern* the limited recognition of violence against and among youth in the Open Working Group's
7 proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG Goal 16, in the post 2015 development
8 agenda,
9
10 *Recognizing* the success of the Students Against Violence Everywhere program, that provides violence education,
11 community engagement, and positive peer-influence in secondary education systems,
12
13 *Deeply concerned* about increased children and youth crime rates in slums as reviewed by the state of the world's
14 children 2012 by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
15
16 *Alarmed* by families in slums requiring their children to contribute to the family's livelihood in the informal sector,
17 thereby putting the children at great risk caused by resource scarcity and the unequal distribution of resources and
18 wealth, which is one of the main causes of criminality as demonstrated in the United Nations (UN) Fact Sheet on
19 Juvenile Justice,
20
21 *Recognizing* the fact that slum communities are affected by higher crime and especially homicide rates, particularly
22 in youth, as the World Health Organization (WHO) underlined in the World Report on Violence and Health,
23
24 *Bearing in mind* the importance of condemning gang activities, which lead to increased violence among youth
25 according to the Caribbean Human Development Report 2012 by the United Nations Development Programme
26 (UNDP),
27
28 *Recalling* the success of programs collaborating with UN-Habitat and the UN Sport for Development and Peace
29 movement that address youth with a history of gang violence activities through providing education of conflict
30 resolution as well as teaching boxing to increase youth's respect for each other,
31
32 *Noting with satisfaction* the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial
33 Measures for Women Offenders, which promote education and reintegration programs and workshops especially for
34 young women,
35
36 1. *Recommends* the creation of national anti-violence programs in secondary schools addressing the threats of
37   violence through:
38
39   a. Community-orientated classes that teach youth about peaceful solutions and mediation and provide
40   education about violence in general and social integration into society;
41
42   b. The integration of potentially marginalized students in sports teams or music classes;
43
44   c. The implementation of an international framework for schools creating a partnership with doctors
45   specializing in mental health issues so the special needs of mental ill students can be accommodated;
46
47 2. *Encourages* UNDP to expand international slum policy framework and especially focus on:
48
49   a. The creation of youth centers in slums, hosted by local community and social workers, in order to have
50   young people with working parents come together to:

		i.	Organize and participate in volunteer work;
51			
52		ii.	Be engaged in activities including but not limited to sports and cultural events, providing viable alternatives to the informal sector and gang activities;
54		iii.	Obtain support in education and preparation for the labor market;
55		iv.	Strengthen sustainable development and urbanization in cities with slum areas in line with the Open Working Group's provisional SDGs, especially with respect to Goal 11;

51   i. Organize and participate in volunteer work;
52   ii. Be engaged in activities including but not limited to sports and cultural events, providing
53   viable alternatives to the informal sector and gang activities;
54   iii. Obtain support in education and preparation for the labor market;
55   iv. Strengthen sustainable development and urbanization in cities with slum areas in line with the
56   Open Working Group's provisional SDGs, especially with respect to Goal 11;
57
58 b. Developing comprehensive plans for increasing access to improved water sources, as defined by the WHO,
59   and central food distribution between communities and slum inhabitants;
60
61 3. *Suggests* that UNDP and UN-Habitat foster awareness campaigns to combat youth gang violence by:
62
63 a. Providing an educational sharing of information concerning:
64   i. Gang violence and its consequences;
65   ii. Peaceful conflict resolutions;
66   iii. Behaviors leading to gang membership;
67
68 b. Promoting exit programs for gang members providing advice for life after gang membership, a perspective
69   for reintegration into community and protection measures from the previous gang taking revenge for
70   leaving;
71
72 c. Condemning gang membership and providing positive alternatives to vulnerable youth;
73
74 4. *Promotes* the cooperation of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with national governments to
75 expand reintegration facilities specifically targeting youth in prison and focusing on:
76
77 a. Keeping them in touch with society by offering education, skills workshops, correspondence programs with
78   people outside the prison and a counselor to talk to;
79
80 b. Supporting former prisoners in reentering the labor market by the facility serving as an office of counselors
81   for assisting these youths in job applications, preparation for job interviews and dealing with challenges in
82   daily life;
83
84 5. *Invites* the General Assembly to take the reduction of violence against and among youth into consideration in its
85 decision on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Code: ECOSOC/1/3
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

1   *The Economic and Social Council,*

2

3   *Acknowledging* the creation of the World Programme of Action for Youth for Year 2000 and Beyond through
4   General Assembly resolution 50/81 identifying information and communications technology and education as part
5   of the outlined priority areas concerning youth,

6

7   *Aware* that only 35 percent of the world's population is connected to the Internet, and people in less developed
8   nations are least likely to have online access or the skills to navigate the digital world as the cost of Information and
9   Communication Technology (ICT) access is more than income per capita in less developed areas as highlighted by
10   the UN-Youth's Youth and ICT Fact sheet,

11

12   *Expressing its appreciation* to established initiatives and programs which aims to bring technological tools and
13   connectivity to less developed regions, as supported by the World Bank's 2009 report on Information and
14   Communications for Development: Extending Reach and Increasing Impact,

15

16   *Deeply concerned* that the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education and global
17   partnership for development has not been fully met, as sixty-nine million adolescents of lower age remain out of
18   school due to lack of facilities, staff, and resources with consideration that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will
19   continue international efforts concerning education,

20

21   *Recognizing* the initiative taken by international organizations in organizing the International Conference on
22   Financing for Development taking place in July 2015 and its importance in raising funds for attempting to achieve
23   the Sustainable Development Goals which is outlined in General Assembly resolutions 68/204 and 68/279,

24

25   *Fully aware* that technology is evolving at a constantly increasing pace as two-third of the internet users are in
26   developing areas, as noted in the General Assembly resolution 55/2, and the continuous efforts of the United Nations
27   Information and Communication Technology Task Force, that provides policy advice to governments for the use of
28   ICT and facilitates programs that intensifies and builds partnerships among governments, civil societies, and the
29   private sector in addressing the global digital divide described in the 2012 report the UN International
30   Telecommunication Union (ITU) Measuring the Information Society 2012,

31

32   1.   *Urges* the implementation of educational workshops and forums specifically designed to provide practical
33   information concerning proper use and benefits to technological resources through encouragement of:

34

35   a.   Mobile buses and digital libraries to provide internet access and technology resources to areas that
36   cannot currently be reached by mass-oriented means;

37

38   b.   The possible implementation of technology resource labs in established shelters and relocation centers
39   with a focus on shelters for women and young girls;

40

41   c.   Providing access to technological tools and connectivity to public libraries and educational facilities in
42   order to provide a stable source of access within Member States as well as promote community among
43   users;

44

45   d.   Member States to provide youth volunteers who will be willing to be trained by technology and
46   internet companies, both in public and private sectors, in coordination with international and regional
47   NGOs, with a focus on ICT in order to properly maintain hubs and given access;

48

49 2. *Recommends* the implementation of educational seminars, lectures, workshops, and forums, specifically
50   designed to provide practical information concerning proper use of technological resources, in partnerships with
51   other UN bodies and NGOs, suggesting:

53   a. The potential of educational and employment opportunities surrounding the field of Information
54   Technology and Innovation to be stressed amongst young people in hopes of better preparing the
55   Youth for the transition to professional life;

57   b. The various uses and practices surrounding technology and information with the consideration of the
58   diverse needs and standards of Member States with a focus on problem-solving through technology
59   and enhancing youth communication between Member States and regions;

61   c. The consideration of the marginalized populations which includes women and girls, visible minorities,
62   and the disabled in respective Member States in order to tailor workshops and forum to meet their
63   needs;

65   d. Possible adaption to established education systems in respective Member States through incorporating
66   technology-focused education in training and educational policies in order to promote the growing use
67   of ICT;

69 3. *Endorses* the partnership between UN bodies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, UN-
70   Women, UN-Youth, and NGOs and charities, in order to launch a youth technology innovation campaign across
71   less developed regions to empower youth in furthering interest in ICTs through promoting and providing
72   assistance of:

74   a. The creation of a private-sector youth opportunity fair called "UNIYTECH Forum" (United Nations
75   International Youth and Technology Forum) that will take place during the week of the established
76   International Youth Day, which will involve:

78   i.   Multinational and national corporations that will be represented during theforum;
79   ii.   These corporations will provide opportunities for youth involvement such as, but not limited
80   to, internships, work opportunities, apprenticeships, and volunteer opportunities;
81   iii. Representatives will be giving workshops and lectures on leadership, civic engagement, and
82   the rights of the youth throughout the forum;

84   b. The implementation of regional and international online platforms to give young people a voice and
85   enable them to discuss society topics together which will help them to get politically involved and to
86   gain a greater understanding of other countries and cultures;

88 4. *Strongly recommends* the international and regional communities and entities to assist in providing the
89   necessary funding needed in providing the tools and framework for this proposed initiative through the
90   endorsements of:

92   a. The initiative to be put into consideration of the International Conference on Financing for
93   Development to be allocated funds to assist with pulling together resources for mobile access and
94   digital libraries;

96   b. The collaboration of NGOs and Non-Profit organizations that focus on ICT to contribute to the
97   outlined campaign and providing volunteers to further promote this initiative;

99   c. Both private and public technology and internet companies to assist in providing need technological
100   tools and aid to assist regions in providing access to its citizens.

Code: ECOSOC/1/4
Committee: The Economic and Social Council Plenary
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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1 *The Economic and Social Council*,
2
3 *Recognizing* that the definition of youth according to General Assembly resolution 36/28 is "those between 15-24
4 years,"
5
6 *Emphasizing* the importance of the 2015 World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General
7 Assembly, aiming at improving the lives of youth in areas such as education, employment, health, good governance,
8 and peace and stability,
9
10 *Reiterating* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its call for the right to education and employment, the
11 importance of health care, and the promotion of youth civic involvement, while ensuring gender mainstreaming in
12 their implementation,
13
14 *Observing* the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the shortcomings, such as a lack
15 of strong accountability framework as emphasized by Plan International,
16
17 *Recognizing* the upcoming expiration of the MDGs and importance of creating subsequent Sustainable Development
18 Goals (SDGs),
19
20 *Recalling* both the Beyond 2015 position paper on the post-2015 Declaration in its call for increased access to
21 information and communication technologies (ICTs), and the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) in
22 the pursuit of measuring development progress in Member States, as a framework for accountability,
23
24 1. *Requests* the *Regional Commissions New York Office* (RCNYO) to provide policy advice and representation to
25   youth in collaboration with the Youth Advocacy Group (YAG) in mainstreaming youth in the post-2015
26   development agenda through regional commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),
27   Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
28   (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social
29   Commission for Western Asi*a* (ESCWA):
30
31   a. Promoting better and inclusive education through:
32
33   i. Coordination with local cities and provinces to provide educational workshops and seminars
34   for youth civic engagement and social integration that will include:
35
36   1. Raising awareness regarding the importance of youth involvement in economic,
37   political, and social processes, in order to engage with the larger global community;
38
39   2. Providing channels in which traditionally underrepresented youth have increased
40   opportunities to participate in civic engagement and to build civic responsibilities;
41
42   ii. Encouraging gender equality among children and youth by mainstreaming into educational
43   curricula women's contributions to society, history, government, economics, science, and
44   math, while keeping in mind cultural sensitivity;
45
46   iii. Incorporating ICTs into educational systems and increasing accessibility to developing states;
47
48   iv. Expanding to more countries the Early School Leaving Program from the United Nations
49   Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Conditional Cash Transfers program from the World
50   Bank in order to provide cash incentives to increase secondary and tertiary school enrollment

51		for youth of underprivileged families;
52		
53	v.	Recommending to all Member States to increase investment in primary and secondary
54		education in order to ensure that these funds are equitably distributed to subsidiary
55		governments and schools based on their student population;
56		
57	vi.	Promoting the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
58		(STEM) academies within Member States, such as the Equal Futures Partnership, in order to
59		effectively mainstream as much of the world's youth population as possible into the post-2015
60		development agenda;
61		
62	vii.	Encourages international cooperation in the field of education through:
63		
64		1. Multilateral exchange programs;
65		
66		2. Micro-funding international scholarships by public private partnership to empower
67		marginalized youth;
68		
69	b.	Promoting higher employment through:
70		
71	i.	Addressing youth unemployment through vocational skill building workshops, tailored to the
72		needs of individual Member States' economies;
73		
74	ii.	Encouraging cooperation between relevant stakeholders to set up targeted and integrated
75		youth entrepreneurship support networks providing relevant training, financial education and
76		micro-financing in order to foster local economic growth;
77		
78	iii.	Utilizing grant-based programs to facilitate community development, internship programs,
79		and student mentorship;
80		
81	iv.	Encouraging Member States to establish gender responsive monitoring and evaluation
82		systems for the labor market in the effort to tackle horizontal inequality issues;
83		
84	c.	Promoting better health in youth populations through:
85		
86	i.	Increasing access to basic health services and information through the suggested expansion
87		and improvement of pre-existing UN initiatives, such as:
88		
89		1. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Integrated Management of Childhood
90		Illness project, which focuses on the well-being of the whole child;
91		
92		2. The UN Foundation's Shot@Life Campaign, which employs the most cost-efficient
93		methods in providing vaccinations to youth in developing and remote areas, while
94		educating the international community on the importance of vaccinations;
95		
96		3. The Second Decade of Life initiative developed UNICEF, which encourages the
97		expansion of comprehensive, sustainable approaches to HIV prevention, treatment
98		and care for youth and adolescents, specifically in remote areas;
99		
100		4. The UN Foundation's Universal Access Project which strives to achieve universal
101		access to reproductive health care, promoting healthy young women, strong families,
102		and prosperous communities;
103		
104	ii.	The promotion of healthy life practices in conjunction with the WHO's awareness efforts in
105		order to educate youth on the prevention of diseases and unhealthy lifestyles by:
106		

107   1. Emphasizing the severity of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other
108   transmittable diseases, and ways to treat these;
109
110   2. Underlining habits such as regular exercise and healthy eating;
111
112   3. Providing ways to gain access to resources and medical care;
113
114   4. Recalling the importance of gender equity in the distribution of food resources,
115   particularly at a young age;
116

d. Promoting good governance through:

117
118
119   i.   Establishing global partnership programmes between the World Federation of United Nations
120   Associations and UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development through the United
121   Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund;
122
123   ii. Improving young people's skills and capacities to participate actively in inclusive practices,
124   including in local, national, and global processes;
125
126   iii. Improving youth's capabilities in governance mechanisms at all levels through organizing
127   local advocacy trainings with the UN Global Education First Initiative;
128
129   iv. Paying attention to young women's participation and presence in political organizations and
130   decision-making at all levels;
131
132   v.   Encouraging the UN Secretary General to create a second function of the Special Envoy on
133   Youth specifically dedicated to a woman that would share the same responsibilities with her
134   male counterpart;
135
136   vi. Encouraging the participation in international long-term initiatives of youth representation in
137   conferences to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda, which include, but are not
138   limited to the Youth Forum;
139
140   vii. Allowing open dialogues between youth representatives and the governments of Member
141   States that aim to ensure the participation of youth in the decision-making process;
142
143   viii. Creating a biannual Youth Civic and Political Engagement Forum in order to raise interest in
144   political and social affairs while engaging and motivating youth to promote enthusiasm in
145   these areas through:
146
147   1. Providing scholarships and grants for their future education as an incentive for
148   attending the informational sessions on governmental processes;
149
150   2. Fostering triangular cooperation among Member States in order to provide equal
151   access to the political and civic forum for youth in developing states;
152

e. Promoting international peace and stability through the use of ICTs and increasing the transparent
    access to information for the youth, especially in culture, economic, and religious issues, while keeping
    in mind:

153
154
155
156
157   i.   The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security's report C-I/132/DR stating
158   ICTs have reshaped the international security environment and can be used for the immense
159   economic and social benefits,
160
161   ii. The Secretary General's Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in
162   the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security that

163		warns of an increase in uses of ICTs that are inconsistent with international peace and security
164		and furthers recommends increased and regular dialogue between Member States and the
165		United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force under ECOSOC to
166		combat these issues;
167		
168	2.	*Emphasizes* the importance of a framework that will allow the youth and their traditionally underrepresented
169		interests to be addressed, while increasing accountability in youth development processes by:
170		
171	a.	Utilizing the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) as a means to promote the
172		accountability of youth development initiatives past its 2015 mandate by addressing key areas of
173		growth and opportunities for improvement;
174		
175	b.	Promoting ICT's, outlined in clause 3, as a means to increase accountability by empowering the youth
176		through providing access to information and communication technologies, in order to create a more
177		transparent relationship between governments and the youth they represent;
178		
179	c.	Reiterating *Accountability in Governance and Politics*, and its role in recognizing the importance of
180		transparency and dialogue in accountability that serves the youth, and recognizing that progressive
181		leadership can contribute to a heightened awareness in the entire young population;
182		
183	3.	*Reaffirms* the necessity for developing a model in which Member States may assess regional and local climates
184		in regard to the youth's access to technology, including the creation of a scale which assesses the topic in the
185		stages of Access, Education, and Outcomes:
186		
187	a.	So that Member States can address discrimination, cost, and political involvement as factors which
188		determine the initial opportunities provided to youth;
189		
190	b.	For developing standards which provide guidelines for increasing accessibility to information and
191		communication technology through initiatives which:
192		
193	i.	Create and support initiatives that advocate for processes in technology access which
194		effectively eliminate discriminatory factors including barriers against youth with HIV/AIDS,
195		those without formal education, and youth groups traditionally disassociated from social
196		processes;
197		
198	ii.	Increase access to broadband, cellular devices, and policies which address the affordability
199		factor in Member States where the youth are challenged in their participation of information
200		and communication technology;
201		
202	iii.	Identify sectors in which the youth may obtain a higher standard of access, training, academic,
203		and economic opportunities pertaining to technological access;
204		
205	c.	Recognizing that education regarding accessible technology is necessary for mainstreaming youth, and
206		programs focused on linking education to economic and social outcomes are paramount in the
207		development of Member States, with key focus on:
208		
209	i.	Technological training and information sharing education, which should be maximized in
210		Member States to mobilize the youth in the work-force and socially empower them in their
211		communities;
212		
213	ii.	Workshops and forums regarding technological education to be implemented by Member
214		States to make technology available to society, and have a competitive young labor force;
215		
216	iii.	Policies implemented by Member States that target areas in which there is a gap in trained
217		skills required by industry and social institution, and the supplied technological education
218		which could address skill-building in those areas;

219
220   d. Encompassing this process, outcomes should be established which quantify the data collected and
221   establish subsequent goals on an annual basis through:
222
223   i. Annual reports which contain detailed accounts of issues within Member States and the
224   methods in which those topics were addressed including the outcome factors;
225
226   ii. Assessments following each report, whereby Member States should review progress made
227   and target areas for the following year where technology access, education, and their
228   economic and social goals may be addressed;
229
230 4. *Promotes* the creation of a multilateral initiative with bilateral approach, similar to Young African Leaders
231   Initiative and Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, to provide youth the opportunity to participate in:
232
233   a. Regional skill building workshops;
234
235   b. Scholarly and professional fellowships;
236
237   c. Micro financing in entrepreneurship;
238
239   d. Grant competitions for community development programs;
240
241 5. *Recommends* the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High Level Forum to review this initiative using
242   Plan International's accountability framework to ensure the success of the SDGs in line with the principles of
243   inclusiveness, accessibility, collaboration, and responsiveness;
244
245 6. *Welcomes* cooperation of Member States in Open Working Groups on the SDGs, prioritizing youth and
246   ensuring that their basic human rights remain at the forefront of these goals;
247
248 7. *Invites* revisions to the Commonwealth's Youth Development Index of 2013, both in time and scope, in order to
249   provide an international tool to evaluate and measure progress and barriers in the areas detailed above focusing
250   on the main priorities which are education, employment, health, good governance, peace and stability, and
251   accountability.

Code: ECOSOC/1/5
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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1   *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3   *Desiring* to further the goals stressed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the Post 2015
4   Development Agenda, which emphasize the role of youth to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
5   through the monitoring of goals and self-advocacy to governments,
6
7   *Recognizing* that one of the major shortfalls in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was lack of
8   strong accountability on national and international levels, according to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General
9   statement 12789,
10
11   *Reaffirming* the key recommendations expressed in the 2014 Colombo Declaration on Youth, which focused on
12   youth participation in policy formulation and implementation, and the European Youth Forum which strives to
13   promote youth rights in international institutions,
14
15   *Noting with deep concern* that, according to the World Youth Report of 2003, much of government policy has a
16   direct and/or indirect impact on the youth yet continues to be drafted and enforced without the consciousness of how
17   it will affect their everyday lives or their future,
18
19   *Further recognizing* the importance of cooperation between different UN bodies and of system-wide accountability
20   mechanisms as stated in General Assembly resolution 64/289 as well as the cooperation with the private sector, non-
21   governmental organizations and the civil society for mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda,
22
23   *Further reaffirming* the recommendations of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
24   (2013), which entail monitoring and accountability mechanisms involving Member States, civil society, the private
25   sector and the international development community,
26
27   *Recalling* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Operational Strategy on
28   Youth 2014-2021, and General Assembly resolution 50/81 that promotes effective methods and mechanisms for
29   Member States to mobilize the youth in policy and programme design and delivery,
30
31   *Taking note of* the essential connection between accountability measures and the effective mainstreaming of the
32   youth in the post-2015 development agenda, and recognizing the beneficial effects generated by specific programs
33   for improving accountability and efficiency, such as the "Delivering as One" project, which yielded promising
34   results in the eight pilot Member States,
35
36   *Noting* the importance of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP) established by the
37   United Nations Secretary-General to provide an overview of all UN system-wide activities, which already works
38   with various information and communications technologies (ICTs), as well as local and regional inter-agency
39   initiatives to connect youth to international policy-making processes,
40
41   1.   *Encourages* Member States to participate in national, regional, and international youth conferences that accept
42   youth participants as well as government officials and UN representatives, where topics regarding youth
43   integration and implementation of policies will be engaged;
44
45   2.   *Further calls* for development of existing modes of youth participation in accountability mechanisms at all
46   levels through UN entities and non-governmental organizations;
47
48   3.   *Invites* to invigorate existing collaborations and networks between private parties and youth organizations so as
49   to find alternative ways to finance youth involvement in accountability mechanisms;

50
51
52   4. *Requests* the creation of a public database through the United Nations Development Programme, to collect information from international youth conferences established by the UN, found in the calendar of youth events from Youth-SWAP, that:

53
54
55   a. Will be added to the database in real-time by the overseeing body of the existing scheduled youth conferences;

56
57
58   b. Organizes the recommendations of scheduled conferences specifically involving youth participation in government to streamline the information that is delivered to Member States;

59
60   c. Should be given to Member States to publish as reports annually;

61
62
63
64   5. *Encourages* Member States to utilize the database to implement the recommendations provided in existing UN documents and create policies that will allow for increased youth involvement, to inform the youth, and give them avenues on how to actively engage in policy making;

65
66
67
68
69   6. *Calls for* feasible and adaptable policies at all levels that help effectively engage youth in the implementation processes and increase the accountability of government actions through the transparency of initiatives and efficiency of communication and encourage and provide avenues for young people to participate in governments' work and develop a network at local and national levels to make youth voices heard, through:

70
71
72   a. Collaborating with youth-led organizations such as Youth Councils in Member States and at the international level such as the Youth Assembly at the UN;

73
74   b. Offering funds for youth representatives in relevant international conferences;

75
76
77   c. Providing opportunities for young people to work in government sectors and supervise the outcomes of governments decisions;

78
79
80   d. Encouraging creative projects and movements aiming at making youth voices heard, like Delivering as One and Youth Voice that have already proved effective in some Member States;

81
82
83
84   7. *Calls upon* the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) to expand and strengthen the accessibility of the resources provided through the database to heads of Member States, national governments, and youth populations in order to:

85
86
87   a. Analyze the needs of individual Member States in effective cooperation between the youth and national governments;

88
89
90   b. Offer recommendations on adequate implementation of comprehensive frameworks found in the database;

91
92   8. *Requests* that the IANYD to submit a report every 5 years to be made available to the database for:

93
94   a. Evaluating the performance of the initiatives suggested though the database and the IANYD;

95
96
97
98   b. Evaluating the success of integration of youth within Member State governments in terms of direct youth participation in their respective governmental bodies, participation in government led initiatives, and voter turnout;

99
100
101
102   c. Presenting the progress and areas of potential improvement of the implementation and execution of the initiatives by Member States and how to address them in terms of a post-2015 development agenda through the use of internet, handbooks, and toolkits;

103
104
105   9. *Invites* all willing Member States and the international donor community to contribute funds to the development of the international database.

Code: ECOSOC/1/6
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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1   *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3   *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 36/28 that establishes that youth is defined as people between the ages
4   of 15 and 24,
5
6   *Recognizing* that youth mainstreaming plays a key role in sustainable development as referred in the United Nations
7   (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, and it is imperative to consider in the post-2015
8   development agenda,
9
10   *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 50/85, which underlined the importance of creating a World Program for
11   Youth and youth participation and empowerment,
12
13   *Considering* the Global Youth Call that youth should be prioritized in the post-2015 development agenda,
14   emphasizing education, employment and entrepreneurship, and political participation,
15
16   *Emphasizing* the importance of educating youth on human rights and especially women's rights in order to raise
17   awareness about social inequalities,
18
19   *Acknowledging* the success of the Mentor Mothers program in African countries,
20
21   *Recognizing* that solid primary education is the foundation for secondary education, future employment and the
22   betterment of youth populations,
23
24   *Deeply concerned* that 123 million of the world's youth population are illiterate, according to the report of the
25   United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), titled "Adult and Youth Literacy –
26   National, regional and global trends,"
27
28   *Recalling* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women that calls for the
29   prevention of women's discrimination on the grounds of maternity, which especially matters to young mothers
30   trying to reenter the labor market,
31
32   *Drawing* attention to the beneficial effects of civic service initiatives and multiple other volunteering and training
33   programs offered to youth by Member States and regional organizations,
34
35   *Emphasizing* the importance of regional cooperation among ECOSOC bodies as well as with regional organizations,
36   such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Association of South-East Asian Nations
37   (ASEAN), in order to coordinate initiatives and the allocation of resources to support education, employment, and
38   political participation of youth,
39
40   *Noting* with satisfaction the successes of educational programmes for youth, such as incentives for graduates to
41   volunteer as teachers and teaching assistants, and conditional cash transfer programs, which provide financial
42   incentives to families who send their children to school,
43
44   **Education**
45
46   1. *Suggests* all Member States to provide primary education in rural and urban areas in order to equip all children
47   with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills which qualify them adequately for secondary education
48   through:
49

50   a.   Incentivizing school attendance by providing financial benefits to families, who send their children to
51   school, funded by the World Bank;
52

53   b.   Creating alternative basic education centers (ABEs), which help youth without access to education to
54   increase their ability to find employment by obtaining basic literacy and math skills;
55

56   c.   Implementing these programs through increased cooperation between local governments and NGOs;
57

58   2. *Supports* the creation and expansion of programmes which target those who have dropped out or are at risk of
59   dropping out, such as young criminals, by giving them a chance to acquire secondary education and training
60   and then allowing them to obtain income generating activities;
61

62   3. *Recommends* the creation of public private partnered scholarship programmes, to target marginalized students
63   between the age of 15 and 24, including, but not limited to young mothers, people with disabilities and students
64   from rural areas, where local governments partner with corporations to provide funding for higher education
65   and which allows youth to get into contact with the private sector and obtain vocational skills, before entering
66   the labor market;
67

68   4. *Invites* governments to support international student exchanges and the UNESCO to create an international
69   voluntary civic service, which should include service from a period of 6 to 10 months in all Member States
70   inspired by the European Voluntary Service and financed by the United Nations Development Programme
71   (UNDP);
72

73   5. *Suggests* closer cooperation between Member States to enable graduates to volunteer as a teacher in another
74   Member State and to train local educators;
75

76   6. *Endorses* the implementation and expansion of similar programs to the Mentor Mother programs beyond Africa
77   to a global level by involving the counselling of youth by HIV positive mothers to provide guidance and
78   support, particularly in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) by:
79

80   a.   Providing the training of these mothers in areas such as but not limited to basic communication and
81   counselling skills, HIV care and treatment, and family planning and reproductive health;
82

83   b.   Encourages regular home visits in order to provide care for both mothers and mothers-to-be;
84

85   c.   Supports the idea of informal biweekly sessions to discuss and keep track of the condition of young
86   women and children;
87

88   d.   Stresses the need for the inclusion and cooperation of men within the program in order to raise
89   awareness;
90

91 **Employment**
92

93   7. *Encourages* governments to provide financial incentives, such as wage subsidies, for private companies to hire
94   young workers in cooperation with the UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO);
95

96   8. *Recommends* to the General Assembly to review and extend the role of UN Global Compact in creating an
97   initiative called "The Global Citizenship Education Program" in order to promote youth internship exchange for
98   capacity building on secondary and tertiary education levels, which includes:
99

100   a.   Sending male and female students from developing to developed countries to serve in private and
101   public firm internships for a duration of 6 to 12 months, giving the students a unique learning
102   opportunity and companies a chance to portray corporate citizenship;
103

104   b.   Paying the interns in a way that allows students a sustainable livelihood;

c. Investigating how Member States can work in cooperation with relevant private corporations in the banking sector to simplify remittance transfers to the developing home countries of interns;

d. Encouraging the General Assembly to discuss increasing the number of paid internships:

      i. In the United Nations and local governments as well as other international organizations to enhance political participation of youth in cooperation with UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth;

     ii. In the private sector, incentivized by governments;

9. *Emphasizes* the expansion and creation of programmes among all Member States to foster entrepreneurship, especially for young people lacking resources and opportunities to start their own businesses by:

a. Providing access to entrepreneurial education, briefing offices, skill-building workshops as well as partnerships between companies and youth looking for entrepreneurial opportunities;

b. Providing access to technology, facilities, and internet in order to access youth to build up their own businesses and adapt to globalization;

c. Encouraging initiatives which provide micro-financing for young entrepreneurs, as well as stipends and grants;

d. Putting special focus on rural areas lacking access to technology, especially access to internet, which increases barriers to labor markets;

10. *Invites* all Member States to work against the exploitation of youth in the informal sector by working towards better working conditions and better economic opportunities through:

a. Supporting the UN Global Compact to focus on youth employment rates within its principles of anti-corruption, human rights and labor conditions;

b. Encouraging a voluntary contribution by the private sector to improve youth employment;

11. *Supports* combining apprenticeships, vocational training and university study, which encompasses a partnership between companies and universities in order to prepare youth for the labor market, by providing working experience during study;

12. *Recommends* Member States create programmes in cooperation with UN-Women and UN-Habitat in order to create opportunities for young mothers to obtain employment by:

a. Providing child care centers in cooperation with the WHO to give parents an opportunity to join the labor market;

b. Encouraging part-time and improved maternity leave conditions and work programmes in the governmental and private sector to make it easier for women pursuing a career and having a family;

Youth Participation

13. *Recommends* the creation of ambassadorships with one ambassador for each domain with a mandate of four years, especially for youth in the following fields: music, culture and sports:

a. Working under the authority of the secretary general youth envoy;

b. Campaigning to inspire youth to political engagement;

160   c. Underlining the positive effects of these three fields on political engagement in collaboration with the
161   UN Office for Sport for Development and Peace;
162

163 14. *Designates* the year 2017 the "International Year of Technology and Youth":
164

165   a. Campaigning the positive effects of technology by the creation of "Youth Technical Centers" by:
166

167   i. Establishing "youth technical centers" taking place in the location determined of the UN
168   Member States during the whole week of International Youth Day;
169   ii. Offering workshops to provide the right use of technology by the young generation;
170   iii. Enabling to participate actively by the use of telecommunication technology in political life;
171   iv. Promoting also the access to education;
172

173   b. Encouraging states to create a forum "HEARUS" to exchange belongings of youth and politicians
174   under the authority of the national ministry in order to strengthen the link between politicians and
175   youth by:
176

177   i. Creating this national online forum;
178   ii. Publishing an annual outcome on the main topics discussed in the forum;
179   iii. Choosing one representative of each national forum presenting this outcome to national
180   ministry;
181   iv. Allowing young people to propose policy measures;
182   v. Asking political representatives about the current national policy;
183

184 15. *Invites* Member States to streamline the acceptance of foreign diplomas, specifically diplomas from less
185   developed countries, to facilitate the migration of educated youth and to prevent high unemployment among
186   migrant youth:
187

188   a. This programme would be under the general authority of the UNESCO and UNDP;
189

190   b. In addition to these competent authorities UNHCR would be responsible to coordinate efforts
191   regarding refugees among youth migrants;
192

193   c. The goals of which are the following:
194

195   i. Achieving on the long term the improvement of labor market in underdeveloped and
196   developing countries;
197   ii. Achieving on the short term youth's ability to enter the labour market in their home countries;
198

199   d. To develop the international standards of academic degrees in order to compare the quality of the
200   diplomas for migrant population;
201

202   e. In order to prevent possible effects of permanent emigration of educated youth, national scholarship
203   programs should be created in order to give financial support to students of higher education obtaining
204   their degree at a foreign university conditioned on a return to their country of origin after finishing
205   their studies;
206

207   f. This program should include private partnerships, which provide funding and in return the graduates
208   receive a contract for the time after finishing their studies;
209

210 16. *Invites* UN bodies to take youth issues into account in future resolutions and expand the inclusion of youth
211   delegates in United Nations debate.