

# NMUN•NY 2017

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9 – 13 April 2017

Documentation of the Work of the Commission for Social Development  
(CSocD)



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Conference B

# Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Yannick Stiller
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Safeya Zeitoun
<b>Chair</b>	Josh Clepper
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Derek Price

## Agenda

- I. Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees
- II. Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
- III. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
CSocD/1/1	Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/2	Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/3	Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees	Adopted without a vote
CSocD/1/4	Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees	Adopted without a vote

## Summary Report

The Commission for Social Development held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Society and Development
- II. Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees
- III. Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The session was attended by representatives of 27 Member States. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, III, I, beginning discussion on the topic of "Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion for Refugees."

By Monday evening, the Dais had received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including refugee healthcare, education, employment, and assimilation. These included a working paper discussing the special needs of refugees displaced due to climate change, as well as a paper discussing the legal status of refugees. All of the delegates cooperated well with one another and engaged in meaningful discussion about their working papers.

On Tuesday, the delegates eagerly responded to the comments made on the working papers and worked diligently to address all comments made by the Dais. The different working groups resubmitted their working papers to the Dais during the afternoon session.

On Wednesday, the Dais accepted four draft resolutions, none of which was amended. The committee adopted all four draft resolutions as resolutions and all were adopted by acclamation. The resolutions covered a wide range of issues, including the definition of climate change refugees, access to education and vocational training opportunities for refugees, healthcare for refugees, and cultural assimilation of refugees. Following voting procedure, the delegates briefly discussed the second topic on the agenda and then adjourned the meeting until next year.



**Code:** CSocD/1/1

**Committee:** Commission for Social Development

**Topic:** Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees

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1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2  
3 *Alarmed and concerned* by the rate of climate degradation and the lack of a definition for a climate refugee, which  
4 means that climate refugees will not get the same consideration towards being integrated socially and economically  
5 into society as other refugees although they are leaving their belonging, homes, and states behind when they are  
6 fleeing to their new host state and therefore need to be included and receive the same economic and social  
7 integration that other refugees receive,

8  
9 *Noting* that climate change, which is a shift in established global weather patterns that results in long-term or  
10 permanent environmental change, such as rising sea levels, droughts, and dangerous levels of emissions, is having a  
11 long-term impact on the environment and people's lives,

12  
13 *Fully aware* of the gravity of the situation that climate refugees face, as well as their right to be accommodated  
14 equally,

15  
16 *Recognizing* that the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951) defines a refugee as a person who has  
17 been forced to flee his or her country due to conflict and persecution because of his or her race, gender, ethnicity, or  
18 ideology, and thus does not adequately address refugees who have been displaced due to climate change,

19  
20 *Cognizant* of the stigma associated with the term refugee and the potential to address this stigma by educating  
21 people about refugees in general, and climate refugees specifically,

22  
23 *Recognizing* the need to educate Member States of the gravity of the situation that climate refugees experience, as  
24 well as the definition of a climate refugee,

25  
26 *Realizing* that the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016) made important strides in bringing the  
27 international community together in solving the refugee crisis; however, it failed to recognize and address refugees  
28 affected by climate change,

29  
30 *Affirming* Sustainable Development Goal 13, established by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),  
31 which recognizes that climate change is affecting every state around the world and the lives of many people,

32  
33 *Recognizing* that while early return and repatriation of refugees as outlined in General Assembly resolution 51/75  
34 (1997) are preferable, climate change will make this difficult to achieve because it produces severe ecological  
35 repercussions, and as a result, climate refugees will not be able to return to their homes, and therefore they will need  
36 to be socially and economically integrated into their host states,

37  
38 *Calling attention* to General Assembly resolution 66/165 (2011), which calls for protection of internally displaced  
39 persons due to natural disasters, but nevertheless does not address cross-border displacement due to climate,

- 40  
41 1. *Recommends* that Member States adopt the definition of a climate refugee as a person who is experiencing  
42 cross-border displacement due to the impact of climate change;
- 43  
44 2. *Encourages* Member States to participate in campaigns to educate people about climate refugees and the  
45 environmental factors that force them to flee their homes, by:
- 46  
47 a. Using media to spread awareness and education about climate refugees, as well as socially integrating  
48 climate refugees into their host communities, because it spreads the awareness to the average citizen of  
49 the host state;

50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59

- b. Implementing public campaigns in collaboration with non-governmental organizations to educate the public on the situations that make an individual a climate refugee; and
  - c. Creating cultural centers and other relevant activities that promote cross-cultural education, thereby facilitating the integration of refugees into society;
3. *Further recommends* that the General Assembly explicitly focus on and incorporate climate change refugees in its discussions on the Global Compact on Refugees, scheduled to be adopted in 2018, in the context of the follow-up process to the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016).



**Code:** CSocD/1/2

**Committee:** Commission for Social Development

**Topic:** Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees

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1 *The Commission for Social Development,*  
2  
3 *Calling attention to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its 1967 Protocol, two documents*  
4 *defining the term “refugee” and outlining the rights of displaced persons as well as the legal obligations of States to*  
5 *protect them,*  
6  
7 *Guided by article 2 and article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which establish guidelines*  
8 *for Member States to follow in order to ensure the respect of populations as well as ensuring the right to a standard*  
9 *of living adequate for maintaining decent health,*  
10  
11 *Recalling Commitment 32 of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016), giving the responsibility*  
12 *of national protection and care of unaccompanied children and children separated from their families to the host*  
13 *country,*  
14  
15 *Recognizing the conclusion of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as*  
16 *expressed in the 2007 Note on the Integration of Refugees in the European Union that providing basic public*  
17 *services to refugees like healthcare is necessary to socially integrate refugees into their host societies,*  
18  
19 *Recognizing the Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination under UNHCR’s Mandate (2005), which*  
20 *aims to establish guidelines regarding the process of obtaining legal status for refugees and the criteria for*  
21 *international refugee protection,*  
22  
23 *Having considered the current condition of refugee camps, where basic human needs such as access to adequate*  
24 *medical treatment and a decent level of sanitation are not fulfilled, as highlighted in Commitment 80 of the New*  
25 *York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016),*  
26  
27 *Reaffirming Commitment 83 of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) to foster and better*  
28 *develop basic healthcare and social care services for refugee communities within national systems,*  
29  
30 *Stressing the importance of addressing the needs of refugees who are victims of physical or psychological abuse,*  
31 *especially during transit, upon their arrival to the host country because of the difficult conditions they underwent, as*  
32 *mentioned in the Commitment 26 of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016),*  
33  
34 *Deeply conscious of the fact that refugees often do not receive adequate medical treatment due to the lack of*  
35 *communication between the patient and the medical staff caused by insurmountable language barriers resulting in*  
36 *the increased possibility of medical errors,*  
37  
38 *Noting the importance of providing a patient’s full medical history to healthcare providers in order to accurately*  
39 *treat patients, as explained in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2006 Medical Records Manual,*  
40  
41 *Highlighting WHO's concern that data from initial health screenings are at times not sufficient for treating refugees,*  
42 *specifically those with chronic diseases,*  
43  
44 *Cognizant of the difficulties refugees face in accessing their medical records from their country of origin, either*  
45 *taking a long time to retrieve them or not being able to access them at all,*  
46  
47 *Recognizing the success of a growing number of countries in adopting national electronic health records to*  
48 *streamline medical record retrieval when requested by an individual's healthcare provider,*  
49

50 *Emphasizing* the effectiveness of targeted social media campaigns like WHO's #HandHygiene day in raising  
51 awareness and educating populations about safe basic health and sanitary practices within refugee camps,  
52  
53 *Deeply appreciative* of the success of various non-governmental organizations and their ability to respond to  
54 medical crises around the world, using mobile clinics to help reduce and eliminate discrimination against refugees  
55 based on unfortunate health conditions,  
56  
57 1. *Strongly urges* Member States to ensure the protection of unaccompanied minors, or children separated from  
58 their families, by encouraging all countries to include provisional measures in their refugee settlement  
59 legislation in order to resolve the humanitarian crisis which arises during or after the process of refugee  
60 relocation;  
61  
62 2. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will prioritize the appropriate distribution of lawful visas to displaced  
63 persons and their families already within their borders, in order to:  
64  
65 a. Embrace the importance of appropriate and efficient refugee resettlement, advancing economic and  
66 social development for all refugees, regardless of ethnicity, countries of origin, or social standing; and  
67  
68 b. Prevent the continuation of familial separation, lack of access to rights and privileges, and detrimental  
69 mental health effects due to the lack of legal status;  
70  
71 3. *Strongly encourages* Member States to facilitate refugees' access to healthcare and sanitation;  
72  
73 4. *Encourages* the procurement of incentives for all willing and able entities so that they may establish mobile  
74 clinics in refugee camps, which would provide preventative care, like vaccines, as well as traditional healthcare,  
75 that could include commitments such as:  
76  
77 a. Voluntary government-issued tax concessions for participating and able entities regarding the  
78 establishment of private mobile clinics providing low-cost treatment; and  
79  
80 b. The utilization of psychiatrists through organizations to provide mental healthcare services to refugees;  
81  
82 5. *Strongly recommends* the reduction of language barriers between healthcare providers and refugee patients and  
83 the need for full medical consent by:  
84  
85 a. Employing refugees with medical credentials to administer culturally sensitive treatment;  
86  
87 b. Providing linguistic interpreters for the medical patients; and  
88  
89 c. Promoting participation of civilian volunteers who could provide their expertise in aiding refugees,  
90 through conferring incentives, such as academic credits and vocational opportunities;  
91  
92 6. *Suggests* the launching of awareness campaigns to promote basic public health practices throughout refugee  
93 camps in Member States, including preventative care regarding sanitary, primary, and sexual health,  
94 disseminated via platforms such as:  
95  
96 a. Social media outlets, thus providing an efficient way to reach refugees in camps;  
97  
98 b. Paper campaigns to be distributed through the camps for those without access to handheld technology  
99 and written in a simple manner for those who are not proficient in the host country's language(s); and  
100  
101 c. Workshops done throughout the camps, in language(s) understood by refugees, in order to decrease  
102 unfair discrimination against refugees as well as improve their quality of life;  
103  
104 7. *Recommends* that Member States establish medical data-sharing policies with other national medical entities  
105 and non-governmental medical organizations so that medical providers can easily access individuals' medical

106 records when in another country, made easier by additional national policy recommendations for all Member  
107 States such as:

- 108
- 109 a. Securely transferring all refugees' medical records into their host state's national system;
- 110
- 111 b. Formatting and organizing national medical records in a way that is easily translatable to any language  
112 and transferable to any state;
- 113
- 114 c. Taking advantage of systems capable of quickly delivering medical records to other countries when  
115 requested by healthcare providers abroad, preferably through an online pathway; and
- 116
- 117 d. Expanding the existing technical capacity of public healthcare systems in states where it is not possible  
118 to maintain national medical records with non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental  
119 organizations for technological support.



**Code:** CSocD/1/3

**Committee:** Commission for Social Development

**Topic:** Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees

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1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2  
3 *Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), particularly Article 55, which*  
4 *calls for higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and*  
5 *development,*

6  
7 *Welcoming the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Employment Policy Department, which*  
8 *supports Member States in creating policy towards fair and equal work opportunities,*

9  
10 *Highlighting the innovative support given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*  
11 *(UNHCR) to refugees and Member States alike,*

12  
13 *Further highlighting the significance of General Assembly resolution 69/152 (2015), which illustrates the notion*  
14 *that refugees require both integration in the existing working environment as well as protection from exploitation in*  
15 *their working environment,*

16  
17 *Recalling article 26 of the Copenhagen Declaration for Social Development (1995), which calls for the promotion of*  
18 *tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as for the equitable distribution of income through equality of opportunity*  
19 *for all,*

20  
21 *Further recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016), which discusses the importance of*  
22 *government legislation in eliminating discrimination against refugees in order to ensure their integration into*  
23 *society,*

24  
25 *Bearing in mind the right to work free from discrimination, as established in the Universal Declaration of Human*  
26 *Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966),*

27  
28 *Further recalling the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' International Migration Report*  
29 *(2015), which portrays migration patterns globally and presents opportunities for Member States to include refugee*  
30 *populations into the workforce,*

31  
32 *Highlighting article 3 of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development (2002), expressing the need to*  
33 *mobilize financial resources for national and international development goals, of which many pertain to eradicating*  
34 *poverty, which can be furthered by including refugees in the workforce,*

- 35  
36 1. *Urges* Member States to intensify public-private partnerships, in collaboration with local non-governmental  
37 organizations (NGOs), to provide refugees with educational opportunities and job training by:  
38  
39 a. Encouraging the private sector to supply apprenticeships or vocational training for refugees to assist  
40 them in transitioning into the job market and provide equal wages for refugees; and  
41  
42 b. Cooperating with the private sector to create and implement national incentive policies to encourage  
43 businesses to employ more refugees;  
44  
45 2. *Invites* the ILO to incorporate a culturally sensitive perspective into policy advice given to Member States for  
46 offering job training to refugees when they first arrive into the host country in order to allow refugees to  
47 become productive members of society;  
48

- 49 3. *Recommends* that Member States utilize knowledge and share best practices with UNHCR in order to develop  
50 policies to expand basic assistance and training so that refugees have the necessary skills for employment;  
51
- 52 4. *Further recommends* that Member States support the utilization of workshops to promote discussion between  
53 the private sector and representatives of refugee communities in order to eliminate discrimination against  
54 refugees and remove obstacles to their integration into the professional environment;  
55
- 56 5. *Encourages* host countries, in collaboration with the private sector, to develop laws preventing discrimination  
57 against refugees;  
58
- 59 6. *Suggests* that countries with labor shortages invite refugees who lack employment opportunities since they are  
60 displaced by increasing resettlements of refugees through UNHCR;  
61
- 62 7. *Encourages* Member States to increase financial support to UNHCR resettlement programs.



**Code:** CSocD/1/4

**Committee:** Commission for Social Development

**Topic:** Promoting Social and Economic Inclusion of Refugees

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1 *The Commission for Social Development,*

2  
3 *Bearing in mind* the purposes and principles established in Article 1 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945),  
4 which emphasizes universal respect for equality and a global commitment to international cooperation in order to  
5 address and resolve issues relating to social and humanitarian crises,

6  
7 *Recognizing* article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), which establishes that  
8 education is a fundamental right and should be accessible to all, without exception to refugees who may find  
9 themselves in a position in which they are less likely to receive education,

10  
11 *Cognizant* of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), specifically Sustainable Development Goals 4  
12 and 8, which aim to promote economic growth through the assurance that all people can have access to equitable  
13 education and acquire knowledge that can be used throughout their lives,

14  
15 *Dismayed* by the inability of refugees to have access to adult vocational training due to the limited funding of  
16 refugee settlements and limited training opportunities offered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

17  
18 *Aware* of the cultural and social tensions between host communities and refugees, which cause refugees to be  
19 isolated within host societies, as well as the necessity of improving relations to eradicate these social tensions,  
20 resulting in the promotion of socioeconomic integration of refugees as emphasized by the 2016 Secretary-General  
21 report, *In safety and dignity: addressing large movement of refugees and migrants*,

22  
23 *Guided* by the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) of the Third International Conference on Financing for  
24 Development, which emphasizes the need for quality education for both girls and boys, including children of  
25 migrant and refugee populations,

26  
27 *Recalling* its commitment to the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951), which asks Member States to  
28 provide elementary education to refugees comparable to the educational experience of nationals including school  
29 certificates, diplomas and degrees, the remission of fees and charges, and the awarding of scholarships,

30  
31 *Reaffirming* the principles of article 28 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), which recognizes the  
32 right to education, namely free and compulsory primary education for all children, and the principle of non-  
33 discrimination against refugee children,

34  
35 *Alarmed* by the findings of the 2016 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
36 report, *Missing Out: Refugee Education in Crisis*, which notes that 3.7 million refugee children are not receiving an  
37 education, and thus are not able to properly integrate into society and later into the workforce,

38  
39 *Recognizing* the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016), which highlights the importance of  
40 providing education for refugee children within a few months of arrival in order to prevent radicalization,  
41 militarization, or a rapid increase in violence against the host society and humanitarian aid workers,

42  
43 *Noting with appreciation* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) work  
44 on the implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, promoting strategic action plans to improve  
45 the inclusion of cultural policies for refugees into the national education system,

46  
47 1. *Recommends* the creation of education programs that provide financial literacy courses for refugees, which  
48 would:

49

- 50 a. Contribute to solving issues regarding cultural assimilation, such as refugees accumulating debt  
51 beyond their means, which would in turn lead to the exclusion of refugees from the economic system  
52 of their host states;  
53
- 54 b. Educate refugees on the importance of access to credit, which would allow refugees to enter the  
55 economic system of their host states through paths such as the housing scheme by means of SME  
56 loans, prompting economic self-sufficiency through the use of financial literacy;  
57
- 58 c. Take place at local and accessible schools and community centers with the encouraged assistance of  
59 UNHCR; and  
60
- 61 d. Be taught by volunteer finance and economics teachers of host states to ensure accurate information is  
62 being shared;  
63
- 64 2. *Supports* the use of community technology centers as exemplified by various Member States, which would  
65 provide access to information technology, skills training, and education for refugees that would:  
66
- 67 a. Extend to learning centers and technology programs in refugee camps such as the UNHCR Tablets for  
68 Education program which aids refugees with cultural awareness;  
69
- 70 b. Provide online language support through the use of language apps, where refugees can learn the local  
71 language of their host states;  
72
- 73 c. Be a system that provides access to city services that would encourage social inclusion and knowledge  
74 of city facilities; and  
75
- 76 d. Be developed through partnerships with the Red Cross, UNHCR, and Microsoft, which all prioritize  
77 using technology to aid refugees in the education process;  
78
- 79 3. *Invites* the International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training of the United Nations  
80 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-UNEVOC) to replicate successful technical and  
81 vocational educational training (TVET) initiatives and to focus on broadening their efforts towards the  
82 promotion of TVET programs for refugees, providing the proper equipment and technology necessary for the  
83 development of their skills;  
84
- 85 4. *Proposes* to Member States hosting refugees to bear in mind the differences in the educational needs of the  
86 refugee community, such as:  
87
- 88 a. Refugees coming from an acute conflict, with a higher likelihood of quick repatriation, who need their  
89 education to continue in the way of their state of origin; and  
90
- 91 b. Refugees coming from complex, long-term situations, which take longer to resolve, who need training  
92 to engage in the educational and vocational systems within the hosting state;  
93
- 94 5. *Encourages* the private sector, in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose work  
95 pertains to the socioeconomic integration of refugees, to supply apprenticeships or vocational training, which  
96 would ease the transition of refugees into local economies, by having:  
97
- 98 a. Local community members volunteer to partner with local NGOs to teach these courses;  
99
- 100 b. Courses teaching refugees about the local economic dynamics; and  
101
- 102 c. Local community members inform refugees of job opportunities;  
103
- 104 6. *Further encourages* UNESCO to incorporate refugee initiatives within the International Fund for Cultural  
105 Diversity by creating culturally sensitive education, which utilizes teacher training programs to inform teachers

- 106 of the diverse cultures of the refugee students, thus providing refugees with access to cultural materials and a  
107 deeper understanding of their host state's culture;  
108
- 109 7. *Calls upon* UNESCO to work with national education ministries to support the participation of already  
110 integrated refugees in education systems as well as teachers in the host states, utilizing their knowledge to  
111 provide multicultural curricula, giving refugees the possibility of learning the host state's language while  
112 protecting their national identity and promoting a cultural exchange between the refugees and the host state's  
113 teachers;  
114
- 115 8. *Suggests* that UNESCO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development collaborate with local  
116 organizations and national governments in order to make the training and assessment of local communities  
117 more effective, in order to prepare those communities to better communicate with refugees to eliminate  
118 language barriers;  
119
- 120 9. *Welcomes* the inclusion of both the official language of the state of origin as well as the language of the host  
121 state into culturally aware school curricula, especially for new students in refugee settlements, to ensure a  
122 smooth transition into the new host state;  
123
- 124 10. *Invites* all relevant UN bodies and stakeholders to actively participate in the work of the Commission at a high  
125 level.