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29 March - 2 April 2015 (Conf. B)

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

Committee Staff

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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Nyla Langford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Sara Calamitosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Safeya Zeitoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Elena Maier</td>
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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

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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.
The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the Millennium Declaration highlights issues of health such as the provision of health services and the dissemination of health education,

Guided by the fact that mental health has been omitted from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and healthcare agenda but should be addressed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Affirming the need for education on health issues and resources for youth, as outlined by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY),

Fully aware that the World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community,

Appreciating WHO’s Mental Health Action Plan as a framework that addresses mental health issues within the global youth population, and can improve the development of youth in the future,

Keeping in mind that, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs’ (UN DESA) Mental Health Matters document, about 20 percent of the global youth population experiences a mental health issue every year, which can be triggered by traumatic events, conflict situations, and experiences with bullying and discrimination,

Recalling that UN DESA has recommended the implementation of international programs and curriculums such as the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Program, the Coping Power Programme, the Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports (PBIS) Program, and the LifeSkills Training Program that contribute to mental stability and improvement among youth in schools,

Acknowledging the importance of the newly founded World Health Organization QualityRights Toolkit, which advocates against the abuse of persons with mental health conditions,

Gravely concerned that one in three victims of human trafficking is a young person, with the majority being women and girls, as reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) Global Trafficking Report of 2014,

Considering that victims of human trafficking, especially young girls, often have to deal with sexual exploitation, forced labor, servitude and slavery, resulting in long-lasting mental disorders,

Noting with deep concern the high rate of post-traumatic stress disorder following gender-based sexual violence,

Taking note that mental health conditions during pregnancy and childbirth are common, especially in younger years, as outlined by the WHO’s document on Improving Maternal Mental Health,

Recognizing that the UNODC has created a Youth Initiative to combat drug abuse within the youth population,

1. Strongly urges all nations to make youth mental illnesses a priority and to create legislation pertaining to mental health problems in their youth populations;

2. Recommends that Member States utilize resources and information available from the international community in order to implement mobile mental health clinics that would provide immediate counseling and psychological
services to young people in situations that involve natural disasters, conflicts or wars, or internally displaced persons and refugees;

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

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

   a. Eliminating the stigma and discrimination surrounding youth that suffer from mental health problems;
   b. Preventing mental health issues in the youth population by becoming more knowledgeable about risk factors of mental illnesses and how to find treatment and providing spaces for discussion and teamwork;
   c. Promoting inclusivity among youth for the betterment of the post-2015 development agenda;

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

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

   a. The Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Program, which implements behavioral and emotional learning curriculum into elementary schools;
   b. The Coping Power Programme, which is a school-based program designed for students that display issues of mental health;
   c. The Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports (PBIS) Program, which takes an approach teaching students about respect and the importance of positive behavior;

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

   a. Advice and counseling;
   b. Psychological screenings;
   c. Physical care;
   d. Suggestions for further treatment;

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

   a. Utilizing social media or mass advertisements to raise awareness on the negative effects of drug use and abuse;
   b. Creating partnerships with outside organizations that focus on youth drug prevention;
   c. Establishing empowerment events that can allow for former young drug users to seek help and solidarity;
d. Organizing workshops such as The LifeSkills Training Program, which strives to lower substance abuse in youth and to promote skill building.
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Code: ECOSOC/1/2
Committee: Economic and Social Council
Topic: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Emphasizing the link between means of mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda and developing policies and programs to prevent youth violence as suggested in the Colombo Declaration of Youth,

Noting with concern the limited recognition of violence against and among youth in the Open Working Group’s proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG Goal 16, in the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the success of the Students Against Violence Everywhere program, that provides violence education, community engagement, and positive peer-influence in secondary education systems,

Deeply concerned about increased children and youth crime rates in slums as reviewed by the state of the world’s children 2012 by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),

Alarmed by families in slums requiring their children to contribute to the family’s livelihood in the informal sector, thereby putting the children at great risk caused by resource scarcity and the unequal distribution of resources and wealth, which is one of the main causes of criminality as demonstrated in the United Nations (UN) Fact Sheet on Juvenile Justice,

Recognizing the fact that slum communities are affected by higher crime and especially homicide rates, particularly in youth, as the World Health Organization (WHO) underlined in the World Report on Violence and Health,

Bearing in mind the importance of condemning gang activities, which lead to increased violence among youth according to the Caribbean Human Development Report 2012 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

Recalling the success of programs collaborating with UN-Habitat and the UN Sport for Development and Peace movement that address youth with a history of gang violence activities through providing education of conflict resolution as well as teaching boxing to increase youth’s respect for each other,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, which promote education and reintegration programs and workshops especially for young women,

1. Recommends the creation of national anti-violence programs in secondary schools addressing the threats of violence through:
   a. Community-orientated classes that teach youth about peaceful solutions and mediation and provide education about violence in general and social integration into society;
   b. The integration of potentially marginalized students in sports teams or music classes;
   c. The implementation of an international framework for schools creating a partnership with doctors specializing in mental health issues so the special needs of mental ill students can be accommodated;

2. Encourages UNDP to expand international slum policy framework and especially focus on:
   a. The creation of youth centers in slums, hosted by local community and social workers, in order to have young people with working parents come together to:
i. Organize and participate in volunteer work;
ii. Be engaged in activities including but not limited to sports and cultural events, providing viable alternatives to the informal sector and gang activities;
iii. Obtain support in education and preparation for the labor market;
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;
b. Developing comprehensive plans for increasing access to improved water sources, as defined by the WHO, and central food distribution between communities and slum inhabitants;
3. Suggests that UNDP and UN-Habitat foster awareness campaigns to combat youth gang violence by:
a. Providing an educational sharing of information concerning:
   i. Gang violence and its consequences;
   ii. Peaceful conflict resolutions;
   iii. Behaviors leading to gang membership;
b. Promoting exit programs for gang members providing advice for life after gang membership, a perspective for reintegration into community and protection measures from the previous gang taking revenge for leaving;
c. Condemning gang membership and providing positive alternatives to vulnerable youth;
4. Promotes the cooperation of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with national governments to expand reintegration facilities specifically targeting youth in prison and focusing on:
a. Keeping them in touch with society by offering education, skills workshops, correspondence programs with people outside the prison and a counselor to talk to;
b. Supporting former prisoners in reentering the labor market by the facility serving as an office of counselors for assisting these youths in job applications, preparation for job interviews and dealing with challenges in daily life;
5. Invites the General Assembly to take the reduction of violence against and among youth into consideration in its decision on the Sustainable Development Goals.
The Economic and Social Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

   d. Member States to provide youth volunteers who will be willing to be trained by technology and internet companies, both in public and private sectors, in coordination with international and regional NGOs, with a focus on ICT in order to properly maintain hubs and given access;
2. **Recommends** the implementation of educational seminars, lectures, workshops, and forums, specifically designed to provide practical information concerning proper use of technological resources, in partnerships with other UN bodies and NGOs, suggesting:

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

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

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

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

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

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

      i. Multinational and national corporations that will be represented during the forum;

      ii. These corporations will provide opportunities for youth involvement such as, but not limited to, internships, work opportunities, apprenticeships, and volunteer opportunities;

      iii. Representatives will be giving workshops and lectures on leadership, civic engagement, and the rights of the youth throughout the forum;

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

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

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

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

   c. Both private and public technology and internet companies to assist in providing need technological tools and aid to assist regions in providing access to its citizens.
The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the definition of youth according to General Assembly resolution 36/28 is “those between 15-24 years,”

Emphasizing the importance of the 2015 World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted by the General Assembly, aiming at improving the lives of youth in areas such as education, employment, health, good governance, and peace and stability,

Reiterating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its call for the right to education and employment, the importance of health care, and the promotion of youth civic involvement, while ensuring gender mainstreaming in their implementation,

Observing the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the shortcomings, such as a lack of strong accountability framework as emphasized by Plan International,

Recognizing the upcoming expiration of the MDGs and importance of creating subsequent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recalling both the Beyond 2015 position paper on the post-2015 Declaration in its call for increased access to information and communication technologies (ICTs), and the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) in the pursuit of measuring development progress in Member States, as a framework for accountability,

1. Requests the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO) to provide policy advice and representation to youth in collaboration with the Youth Advocacy Group (YAG) in mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda through regional commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA):

   a. Promoting better and inclusive education through:

      i. Coordination with local cities and provinces to provide educational workshops and seminars for youth civic engagement and social integration that will include:

              1. Raising awareness regarding the importance of youth involvement in economic, political, and social processes, in order to engage with the larger global community;

              2. Providing channels in which traditionally underrepresented youth have increased opportunities to participate in civic engagement and to build civic responsibilities;

      ii. Encouraging gender equality among children and youth by mainstreaming into educational curricula women’s contributions to society, history, government, economics, science, and math, while keeping in mind cultural sensitivity;

      iii. Incorporating ICTs into educational systems and increasing accessibility to developing states;

      iv. Expanding to more countries the Early School Leaving Program from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Conditional Cash Transfers program from the World Bank in order to provide cash incentives to increase secondary and tertiary school enrollment
for youth of underprivileged families;

v. Recommending to all Member States to increase investment in primary and secondary education in order to ensure that these funds are equitably distributed to subsidiary governments and schools based on their student population;

vi. Promoting the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) academies within Member States, such as the Equal Futures Partnership, in order to effectively mainstream as much of the world’s youth population as possible into the post-2015 development agenda;

vii. Encourages international cooperation in the field of education through:

1. Multilateral exchange programs;

2. Micro-funding international scholarships by public private partnership to empower marginalized youth;

b. Promoting higher employment through:

i. Addressing youth unemployment through vocational skill building workshops, tailored to the needs of individual Member States’ economies;

ii. Encouraging cooperation between relevant stakeholders to set up targeted and integrated youth entrepreneurship support networks providing relevant training, financial education and micro-financing in order to foster local economic growth;

iii. Utilizing grant-based programs to facilitate community development, internship programs, and student mentorship;

iv. Encouraging Member States to establish gender responsive monitoring and evaluation systems for the labor market in the effort to tackle horizontal inequality issues;

c. Promoting better health in youth populations through:

i. Increasing access to basic health services and information through the suggested expansion and improvement of pre-existing UN initiatives, such as:

1. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Integrated Management of Childhood Illness project, which focuses on the well-being of the whole child;

2. The UN Foundation’s Shot@Life Campaign, which employs the most cost-efficient methods in providing vaccinations to youth in developing and remote areas, while educating the international community on the importance of vaccinations;

3. The Second Decade of Life initiative developed UNICEF, which encourages the expansion of comprehensive, sustainable approaches to HIV prevention, treatment and care for youth and adolescents, specifically in remote areas;

4. The UN Foundation’s Universal Access Project which strives to achieve universal access to reproductive health care, promoting healthy young women, strong families, and prosperous communities;

ii. The promotion of healthy life practices in conjunction with the WHO’s awareness efforts in order to educate youth on the prevention of diseases and unhealthy lifestyles by:
1. Emphasizing the severity of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other transmittable diseases, and ways to treat these;

2. Underlining habits such as regular exercise and healthy eating;

3. Providing ways to gain access to resources and medical care;

4. Recalling the importance of gender equity in the distribution of food resources, particularly at a young age;

d. Promoting good governance through:

i. Establishing global partnership programmes between the World Federation of United Nations Associations and UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund;

ii. Improving young people’s skills and capacities to participate actively in inclusive practices, including in local, national, and global processes;

iii. Improving youth’s capabilities in governance mechanisms at all levels through organizing local advocacy trainings with the UN Global Education First Initiative;

iv. Paying attention to young women’s participation and presence in political organizations and decision-making at all levels;

v. Encouraging the UN Secretary General to create a second function of the Special Envoy on Youth specifically dedicated to a woman that would share the same responsibilities with her male counterpart;

vi. Encouraging the participation in international long-term initiatives of youth representation in conferences to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda, which include, but are not limited to the Youth Forum;

vii. Allowing open dialogues between youth representatives and the governments of Member States that aim to ensure the participation of youth in the decision-making process;

viii. Creating a biannual Youth Civic and Political Engagement Forum in order to raise interest in political and social affairs while engaging and motivating youth to promote enthusiasm in these areas through:

1. Providing scholarships and grants for their future education as an incentive for attending the informational sessions on governmental processes;

2. Fostering triangular cooperation among Member States in order to provide equal access to the political and civic forum for youth in developing states;

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:

i. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security's report C-I/132/DR stating ICTs have reshaped the international security environment and can be used for the immense economic and social benefits,

ii. The Secretary General's Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security that
warns of an increase in uses of ICTs that are inconsistent with international peace and security and furthers recommends increased and regular dialogue between Member States and the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force under ECOSOC to combat these issues;

2. Emphasizes the importance of a framework that will allow the youth and their traditionally underrepresented interests to be addressed, while increasing accountability in youth development processes by:

   a. Utilizing the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) as a means to promote the accountability of youth development initiatives past its 2015 mandate by addressing key areas of growth and opportunities for improvement;

   b. Promoting ICT’s, outlined in clause 3, as a means to increase accountability by empowering the youth through providing access to information and communication technologies, in order to create a more transparent relationship between governments and the youth they represent;

   c. Reiterating Accountability in Governance and Politics, and its role in recognizing the importance of transparency and dialogue in accountability that serves the youth, and recognizing that progressive leadership can contribute to a heightened awareness in the entire young population;

3. Reaffirms the necessity for developing a model in which Member States may assess regional and local climates in regard to the youth’s access to technology, including the creation of a scale which assesses the topic in the stages of Access, Education, and Outcomes:

   a. So that Member States can address discrimination, cost, and political involvement as factors which determine the initial opportunities provided to youth;

   b. For developing standards which provide guidelines for increasing accessibility to information and communication technology through initiatives which:

      i. Create and support initiatives that advocate for processes in technology access which effectively eliminate discriminatory factors including barriers against youth with HIV/AIDS, those without formal education, and youth groups traditionally disassociated from social processes;

      ii. Increase access to broadband, cellular devices, and policies which address the affordability factor in Member States where the youth are challenged in their participation of information and communication technology;

      iii. Identify sectors in which the youth may obtain a higher standard of access, training, academic, and economic opportunities pertaining to technological access;

   c. Recognizing that education regarding accessible technology is necessary for mainstreaming youth, and programs focused on linking education to economic and social outcomes are paramount in the development of Member States, with key focus on:

      i. Technological training and information sharing education, which should be maximized in Member States to mobilize the youth in the work-force and socially empower them in their communities;

      ii. Workshops and forums regarding technological education to be implemented by Member States to make technology available to society, and have a competitive young labor force;

      iii. Policies implemented by Member States that target areas in which there is a gap in trained skills required by industry and social institution, and the supplied technological education which could address skill-building in those areas;
d. Encompassing this process, outcomes should be established which quantify the data collected and establish subsequent goals on an annual basis through:

i. Annual reports which contain detailed accounts of issues within Member States and the methods in which those topics were addressed including the outcome factors;

ii. Assessments following each report, whereby Member States should review progress made and target areas for the following year where technology access, education, and their economic and social goals may be addressed;

4. **Promotes** the creation of a multilateral initiative with bilateral approach, similar to Young African Leaders Initiative and Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, to provide youth the opportunity to participate in:

   a. Regional skill building workshops;

   b. Scholarly and professional fellowships;

   c. Micro financing in entrepreneurship;

   d. Grant competitions for community development programs;

5. **Recommends** the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High Level Forum to review this initiative using Plan International’s accountability framework to ensure the success of the SDGs in line with the principles of inclusiveness, accessibility, collaboration, and responsiveness;

6. **Welcomes** cooperation of Member States in Open Working Groups on the SDGs, prioritizing youth and ensuring that their basic human rights remain at the forefront of these goals;

7. **Invites** revisions to the Commonwealth’s Youth Development Index of 2013, both in time and scope, in order to provide an international tool to evaluate and measure progress and barriers in the areas detailed above focusing on the main priorities which are education, employment, health, good governance, peace and stability, and accountability.
The Economic and Social Council,

Desiring to further the goals stressed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, which emphasize the role of youth to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the monitoring of goals and self-advocacy to governments,

Recognizing that one of the major shortfalls in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was lack of strong accountability on national and international levels, according to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General statement 12789,

Reaffirming the key recommendations expressed in the 2014 Colombo Declaration on Youth, which focused on youth participation in policy formulation and implementation, and the European Youth Forum which strives to promote youth rights in international institutions,

Noting with deep concern that, according to the World Youth Report of 2003, much of government policy has a direct and/or indirect impact on the youth yet continues to be drafted and enforced without the consciousness of how it will affect their everyday lives or their future,

Further recognizing the importance of cooperation between different UN bodies and of system-wide accountability mechanisms as stated in General Assembly resolution 64/289 as well as the cooperation with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the civil society for mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda,

Further reaffirming the recommendations of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013), which entail monitoring and accountability mechanisms involving Member States, civil society, the private sector and the international development community,

Recalling the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, and General Assembly resolution 50/81 that promotes effective methods and mechanisms for Member States to mobilize the youth in policy and programme design and delivery,

Taking note of the essential connection between accountability measures and the effective mainstreaming of the youth in the post-2015 development agenda, and recognizing the beneficial effects generated by specific programs for improving accountability and efficiency, such as the “Delivering as One” project, which yielded promising results in the eight pilot Member States,

Noting the importance of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP) established by the United Nations Secretary-General to provide an overview of all UN system-wide activities, which already works with various information and communications technologies (ICTs), as well as local and regional inter-agency initiatives to connect youth to international policy-making processes,

1. Encourages Member States to participate in national, regional, and international youth conferences that accept youth participants as well as government officials and UN representatives, where topics regarding youth integration and implementation of policies will be engaged;

2. Further calls for development of existing modes of youth participation in accountability mechanisms at all levels through UN entities and non-governmental organizations;

3. Invites to invigorate existing collaborations and networks between private parties and youth organizations so as to find alternative ways to finance youth involvement in accountability mechanisms;
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:
   
   a. Will be added to the database in real-time by the overseeing body of the existing scheduled youth conferences;
   
   b. Organizes the recommendations of scheduled conferences specifically involving youth participation in government to streamline the information that is delivered to Member States;
   
   c. Should be given to Member States to publish as reports annually;

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;

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:
   
   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;
   
   b. Offering funds for youth representatives in relevant international conferences;
   
   c. Providing opportunities for young people to work in government sectors and supervise the outcomes of governments decisions;
   
   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;

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:
   
   a. Analyze the needs of individual Member States in effective cooperation between the youth and national governments;
   
   b. Offer recommendations on adequate implementation of comprehensive frameworks found in the database;

8. **Requests** that the IANYD to submit a report every 5 years to be made available to the database for:
   
   a. Evaluating the performance of the initiatives suggested though the database and the IANYD;
   
   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;
   
   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;

9. **Invites** all willing Member States and the international donor community to contribute funds to the development of the international database.
The Economic and Social Council,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 36/28 that establishes that youth is defined as people between the ages of 15 and 24,

Recognizing that youth mainstreaming plays a key role in sustainable development as referred in the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, and it is imperative to consider in the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/85, which underlined the importance of creating a World Program for Youth and youth participation and empowerment,

Considering the Global Youth Call that youth should be prioritized in the post-2015 development agenda, emphasizing education, employment and entrepreneurship, and political participation,

Emphasizing the importance of educating youth on human rights and especially women’s rights in order to raise awareness about social inequalities,

Acknowledging the success of the Mentor Mothers program in African countries,

Recognizing that solid primary education is the foundation for secondary education, future employment and the betterment of youth populations,

Deeply concerned that 123 million of the world’s youth population are illiterate, according to the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), titled “Adult and Youth Literacy – National, regional and global trends,”

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women that calls for the prevention of women’s discrimination on the grounds of maternity, which especially matters to young mothers trying to reenter the labor market,

Drawing attention to the beneficial effects of civic service initiatives and multiple other volunteering and training programs offered to youth by Member States and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation among ECOSOC bodies as well as with regional organizations, such as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), in order to coordinate initiatives and the allocation of resources to support education, employment, and political participation of youth,

Noting with satisfaction the successes of educational programmes for youth, such as incentives for graduates to volunteer as teachers and teaching assistants, and conditional cash transfer programs, which provide financial incentives to families who send their children to school,

Education

1. Suggests all Member States to provide primary education in rural and urban areas in order to equip all children with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills which qualify them adequately for secondary education through:
a. Incentivizing school attendance by providing financial benefits to families, who send their children to school, funded by the World Bank;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employment

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

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

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

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

14. Designates the year 2017 the “International Year of Technology and Youth”:

a. Campaigning the positive effects of technology by the creation of “Youth Technical Centers” by:
   i. Establishing “youth technical centers” taking place in the location determined of the UN Member States during the whole week of International Youth Day;
   ii. Offering workshops to provide the right use of technology by the young generation;
   iii. Enabling to participate actively by the use of telecommunication technology in political life;
   iv. Promoting also the access to education;

b. Encouraging states to create a forum “HEARUS” to exchange belongings of youth and politicians under the authority of the national ministry in order to strengthen the link between politicians and youth by:
   i. Creating this national online forum;
   ii. Publishing an annual outcome on the main topics discussed in the forum;
   iii. Choosing one representative of each national forum presenting this outcome to national ministry;
   iv. Allowing young people to propose policy measures;
   v. Asking political representatives about the current national policy;

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

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

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

c. The goals of which are the following:
   i. Achieving on the long term the improvement of labor market in underdeveloped and developing countries;
   ii. Achieving on the short term youth’s ability to enter the labour market in their home countries;

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

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

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

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