

Advance Unedited Version

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, entitled “Policies and Programmes involving youth”, in which it requested the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session to elaborate the five additional priority areas for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and to make recommendations on a supplement to the World Programme of Action to the general Assembly, to be adopted at its sixty-second session, taking into consideration other emerging issues of particular relevance to youth;

Decides to adopt the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth annexed to this resolution.

Annex:

Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth

A. Globalization

1. Globalization has opened new opportunities for sustained economic growth and the development of the world economy. Globalization has also permitted countries to share experiences and to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties, and promoted a cross-fertilization of ideas, cultural values and aspirations. Globalization has thus helped to connect youth not only to the rest of the world, but also with each other.
2. At the same time, the rapid processes of change and adjustment of globalization have been accompanied by intensified poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Threats to human well-being, such as environmental risks, have also been globalized. Some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization, but many others, especially least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalized world economy. The benefits are very unevenly shared, while the costs are unevenly distributed. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable. There is a strong need for appropriate policies and measures at the national and international levels to help countries respond effectively to the challenges of globalization and the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Many young people, especially in developing countries, remain marginalized from the global economy and lack the capabilities to access the opportunities globalization offers. Many are restricted by inadequate education, limited skills, unemployment and poverty, or are outside the reach of basic information and communication, and goods and services that have become available with globalization.

Proposals for action

Managing the effects of globalization on youth

4. The International community should continue to support the efforts of governments, together with civil society, including youth led organizations, the private sector, and other parts of society to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people.
5. Governments should ensure that access of youth to technical, secondary and higher education is improved, and curricula are adapted to meet the needs of a rapidly

changing labour market associated with globalization. The transition between learning and work should also be facilitated.

6. Governments should foster the conditions that provide opportunities, jobs and social services for youth in their home countries. Efforts should be made to guarantee that young migrants enjoy full respect of their human rights, including in fair and equal treatment with others, as well as the protection of law against, inter alia, violence, exploitation and discrimination such as racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and cultural intolerance, as well as access to economic opportunities and social services, as appropriate.

Promoting youth employment and skills development in the context of globalization

7. In order to overcome the mismatch between the skills that youth possess and the specialized demands of labour markets shaped by globalization governments, with appropriate support from the international community, should provide funding and opportunities in both formal and non-formal education for youth to acquire requisite skills including through skill development programmes.

8. At the same time, Governments should promote access to work through integrated policies that enable the creation of new and quality jobs for young people and facilitate access to those jobs.

Establish ways of monitoring systems to track effects of globalization on youth

9. Governments should assess the extent to which the benefits of globalization are accessible to youth, and they should design and implement programmes to enable youth to better harness the benefits of globalization.

Information and Communication Technologies

10. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and infrastructures are growing in importance as a part of everyday business and interaction. This process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information, which hinder the bridging of the digital divide, particularly those that impede the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, especially youth, in particular in developing countries. ICTs have enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education, and to facilitate the learning process itself, thus laying the groundwork for the establishment of a fully inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and knowledge economy which respects cultural and linguistic diversity.

11. Youth have a particular interest and ability with regard to modern technology. ICTs can empower youth by providing the opportunity for youth to overcome the barriers of distance and socioeconomic disadvantage. Through the internet, for example, young

people can have access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment. This information can be used to improve the quality of life of youth and their communities. This process can be facilitated if Governments, civil society, the private sector, families, youth-led organizations and other groups work together to open up avenues for a cultural and social exchange among young people. Governments can also capitalize on young people's interest in ICT to alleviate poverty. For example, youth can become engaged not only in the use of ICT, but also in the development and engineering of locally relevant software design and hardware.

12. ICT offers new ways to address the needs of youth with disabilities who cannot access traditional sources of information and employment. Vulnerable groups of population can capitalize on the ICT to connect better with society and advance their education and employment opportunities.

Proposals for Action

Making ICT available to all youth

13. Governments, supported by the international community as appropriate, should facilitate access to information and communication technologies to all youth including those in difficult to reach areas, such as rural areas and in indigenous peoples communities. Governments should evaluate inequalities in access that exist between urban and rural youth, and between young women and men, and develop national strategies to overcome this "digital divide" in each country. These plans can decrease the number of information-poor youth.

14. Governments should develop domestic policies to ensure that ICTs are fully and appropriately integrated in education and training at all levels, including in curriculum development, teacher training, institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning.

15. Governments with support of the international community should promote and encourage local knowledge systems, as well as locally-produced content in media and communications, and support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, and with content relevant to different groups of young persons, especially young women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT.

Provide training to facilitate use of ICT

16. Governments in collaboration with relevant actors in the Information Society should ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICTs appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways, share their expertise and participate fully in the Information Society. Efforts should be made to provide special training courses for in and out-of-school youth

to enable them to become conversant with ICT and facilitate their use of such technologies.

Protection of youth from harmful aspects of ICT

17. Governments should strengthen action to protect youth from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs. In that context, the best interests of youth are a primary consideration. Governments should promote responsible behavior and raise awareness of possible risks for young people from the harmful aspects of ICTs in order to protect themselves from possible exploitation and harm.

18. Governments in cooperation with relevant actors of Information Society should strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and harmful impact of ICTs, particularly through cyber crimes such as child pornography.

Promote use of ICT by persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups

19. Governments should facilitate the development of ICT capacity for youth including indigenous youth and youth with disabilities and those residing in remote and rural communities.

20. Governments should initiate the development and use of special technical and legal arrangements to make information and communication technologies accessible to all youth including indigenous youth and youth with disabilities and those residing in remote and rural communities.

Empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society

21. Governments should actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes in a manner that encourages youth to assume leadership roles. The role of youth in creating, repairing, managing and maintaining ICT should also be recognized and encouraged.

22. Bearing in mind that literacy and numeracy are pre-conditions for access and effective use of ICT, Governments should promote opportunities through formal and non-formal channels for young persons to acquire the appropriate knowledge.

23. ICT should also be used to enhance education, employment, and youth participation in the decision-making process. ICT should be used to improve the quality of education and better prepare youth for the demands of the information society.

HIV/AIDS

24. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is increasingly becoming a problem of youth, especially in parts of the developing world. Governments have noted with grave concern, the fact

that new HIV infections are heavily concentrated among youth, and that there is a lack of information available to help youth understand their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases, and prevent unwanted pregnancies.

25. Young people, especially young women in Africa, face especially high risks of HIV infection. Young people and women are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their lack of economic and social power and their lack of capability to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infections. They often lack the tools and information required to avoid infection and cope with AIDS. In 2006, women and girls made up 57 per cent of all people infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where a striking 76 per cent of young people (aged 15-24 years) living with HIV are female.

26. Although many children orphaned by AIDS have not yet entered the youth age groups, they are at great risk of becoming youth with severe vulnerabilities. They are subject to malnutrition, illness, abuse, child labour and sexual exploitation and these factors increase their vulnerability to HIV infection. They also suffer the stigma and discrimination often associated with HIV/AIDS and may be denied education, work, housing and other basic needs as a result.

27. It is imperative that young people continue to have access to evidence- and skills-based, youth specific HIV education to enable them to avoid high risk behaviour. In some regions youth, especially girls, play a key role in caring for HIV/AIDS patients or their orphans. To ensure that young caregivers stay in school, build their skills and have the chance to generate an income, Governments should provide economic and social support to families that rely on young caregivers as well as support for improving home- and community-based care.

28. Because youth often lack decision-making power and financial resources, they may be the last to receive treatment if they become infected themselves. Programmes should scale up the provision of treatment as part of the promotion of the highest attainable standards of health

29. It is essential for governments to implement fully the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001 and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. In addition, Governments should implement the commitments dealing with HIV/AIDS reached at all major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit and the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2006, which committed to scale up towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatments, care and support by 2010 and the goal of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development.

Proposals for Action

Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment for youth

30. Governments should ensure that prevention of HIV infection is the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and should therefore commit themselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes that take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm-reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

31. Government should commit themselves to addressing the rising rates of HIV infection among young people to ensure an HIV-free future generation through the implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based prevention strategies, responsible sexual behaviour, including the use of condoms, evidence- and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education, mass media interventions and the provision of youth-friendly health services.

32. Governments should provide access to the highest attainable standards of affordable and youth friendly health care, to increase the capacities of young people to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include confidential voluntary counseling and testing, and involve young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of these efforts.

33. Governments should promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second line drugs, available to young people, including initiatives on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis.

34. Recognizing that HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting youth in both developed and developing countries, all efforts should be made to ensure that youth have access to accurate information and education, including peer education and youth specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their

vulnerability to HIV infection in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators, and health care providers.

35. Governments should involve young people, including youth living with HIV/AIDS, inter alia through their respective youth organizations, and as appropriate, with the support of their families, in the decision-making, and in the planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes.

36. Governments should ensure that prevention programmes include counseling for those who are infected with HIV to ensure that they take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and to help them cope with the effects of living with HIV/AIDS.

Support universal HIV/AIDS education taking gender inequalities into account

37. Trafficking of women and girls into prostitution and sexual slavery increases young women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection and is linked to the widespread feminisation of poverty, sex-tourism, sweatshops and other detrimental consequences of globalization. Governments should devise, enforce and strengthen effective youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy in the wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

38. Governments should include in school curricula and non-formal training programmes, appropriate information on the effects of high risk behaviour on the transmission of HIV infection, including intravenous drug use.

39. Governments should give special attention to aspects of gender, and to the disproportionate vulnerability of girls and young women, in all programmes aimed at informing about and preventing HIV/AIDS among youth.

Legislation and legal instruments to protect vulnerable youth

40. Governments should ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of de-stigmatization of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

41. Governments should strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by youth and the protection of their dignity and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as all types of sexual exploitation of young girls and boys, including for commercial reasons, and all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls.

42. Governments should intensify efforts to enact, strengthen or enforce, as appropriate, legislation, regulations and other measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by youth living with HIV, including policies to secure their access to education, inheritance, employment, health care, social and health services, prevention, support and treatment, information and legal protection, while respecting their privacy and confidentiality and developing strategies to combat stigma and social exclusion connected with the epidemic.

Armed Conflict

43. Development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The scale of violence perpetrated against civilians, including youth, in the past couple of decades is extremely worrisome. Armed conflicts have resulted in killings, massive displacement of people, including youth, and the destruction of the communities and this has impacted negatively on their development.

44. Youth are often among the main victims of armed conflict. Children and youth are killed or maimed, made orphans, abducted, taken hostage, forcibly displaced, deprived of education and health care, and left with deep emotional scars and trauma. Children, illegally recruited as child soldiers are often forced to commit serious abuses. Armed conflict destroys the safe environment provided by a house, a family, adequate nutrition, education and employment. During conflict, youth health risks increase, especially for young women. Young women and girls face additional risks, particularly that of sexual violence and exploitation.

45. During conflict, young men and women who are forced to take up “adult” roles miss out on opportunities for personal or professional development. When conflict ends, many youths make the transition to adulthood, with the traumas of war and yet they must quickly adapt to the new roles, often as parents and caretakers of the victims of war. Without receiving services to help them deal with their situations, youth and young adults may fail to integrate into society.

Proposals for Action

Protection of Youth under the age of 18 years from direct involvement in armed conflict

46. Governments should ensure that children, from an early age, benefit from education on the values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life to enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity and of tolerance and non-discrimination. Governments should promote a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue, including in both formal and non-formal education.

47. Governments should consider, as a matter of priority, to ratify and effectively implement ILO Convention 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
48. Governments should take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take direct part in hostilities, and that those who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.
49. Governments should take all necessary measures, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as a matter of priority, to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, as distinct from the armed forces of a State, including the adoption of policies that do not tolerate the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, and legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.
50. Governments should protect young persons in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict settings and refugee and internally displaced persons settings, where youth are at risk of violence and where their ability to seek and receive redress is often restricted, bearing in mind that peace is inextricably linked with equality between young women and young men and development, that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting young persons in nearly every region and they need to be protected.

Provisions for the reintegration of youth ex-combatants and protection of non-combatants

51. Governments should provide opportunities for all youth who have been engaged in active combat, whether voluntarily or by force, and who seek to demobilize and contribute to society's development, to do so. In this regard, Governments should establish programmes to provide opportunities for youth ex-combatants to retool and retrain to facilitate their employment in economic activity and their reintegration into society, including family reunification.
52. Governments should take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children and young victims of armed conflicts, in particular by restoring access of those children and youth to health care and education, including through Education For All programmes, as well as to put in place effective youth employment strategies that would help to provide a decent for living for young people and facilitate their reintegration into society.

Promoting active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security

53. Governments should encourage the involvement of young people, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation and peace building.

Intergenerational Issues

54. Many aspects of the demographic transition, global economic development, and globalization have influenced opportunities for intergenerational exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources. The increase in life-spans implies that many adults live longer lives over which they can share knowledge and resources with younger generations. In recent times, greater longevity has resulted in many older people living longer periods in some form of dependency on younger generations. Trends in globalization and development have however resulted in many young people being cut off from their families. In many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the ageing population is dominant in rural areas, owing to the exodus of young adults. Older persons may be left behind without the traditional support of families and even without adequate financial resources. While older persons lose opportunities to receive support from younger members of families, younger persons also lose opportunities to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of older members of their families.

55. At the level of families and at the community level, intergenerational ties can be valuable for everyone. Individual and family choices, geographic mobility and pressures of contemporary life can keep people apart, yet the great majority of people in all cultures maintain close relations with their families throughout their lives. These relationships work in both directions, with older persons often providing significant contributions financially, emotionally and in the education and care of grandchildren and other kin, crucially contributing to the stability of the family unit.

56. The weakening intergenerational connections in the context of ageing societies implies that various needs of youth, children and older persons that may have been supported through intricate and complex familial relationships are increasingly not being met, and are instead becoming the responsibility of the State or the private sector.

57. It is therefore incumbent on Governments and relevant sectors of society to develop programs that renew or restore the intergenerational solidarity. Where there has already been substantial erosion of the ability of communities to meet this objective. Governments should intervene to ensure that basic needs for protection are met.

Proposals for action

Strengthening of families

58. While respecting individual preferences for living arrangements, all sectors of society, including Governments, should develop programmes to strengthen families and to foster intergenerational relations.

Empowerment of young women

59. Governments should promote higher labour force participation rates of young women, including those living in rural and remote areas, by developing the necessary skills to enable them to find employment especially by taking measures to overcome male and female stereotypes and by promoting role models and to facilitate better reconciliation of work and family life.

Strengthening of intergenerational solidarity

60. Government and private sector businesses should capitalize on the opportunity to use the experience and skills of older workers to train younger and newer employees.

61. Governments should promote equality and solidarity between generations, including offering young people full and effective participation in poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration in the society they live in.

62. All sectors of society should be encouraged to develop reciprocity in learning which provides older persons opportunities to learn from younger generations.

63. Where traditional forms of social support have been lessened by migration, globalization and related situations, Governments should work with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide assistance and support to older caregivers, especially those providing care for HIV/AIDS orphans, to assist them in meeting the needs of children and grandchildren.

64. Governments should take steps to strengthen solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships through the promotion of activities that support inter-generational communication and understanding, and to encourage mutually responsive relationships between generations.

65. The full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels is important for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the evaluation of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the need to support the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by young people and youth organizations. Governments should encourage their participation in actions and decisions and at strengthening the implementation of the World Programme of Action, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents in decision making processes and for positive change and development in society.