United Nations A/65/L.87

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 July 2011

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 27 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, in particular paragraph 3 thereof, and its resolution 65/267 of 11 March 2011, in particular paragraph 1 thereof,

Adopts the following outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding:

Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States, gathered at a high-level meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011 on the theme "Youth: dialogue and mutual understanding",

1. Stress the need to disseminate and foster among young people and educate them about the ideals of peace, freedom, justice, tolerance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development;

2. Recall resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, by which the General Assembly proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and acknowledge the significance of this meeting as the highlight of the International Year of Youth;

3. Reaffirm the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its fifteen interrelated priority areas, and call upon Member States to continue its implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels;

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4. Encourage Member States to develop comprehensive policies and action plans that focus on the best interests of youth, particularly the poor and marginalized, and address all aspects of youth development, and also encourage the international community and the United Nations system to support national youth programmes and further develop and improve the existing international framework on youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth, in order to fully address all current challenges affecting youth;

5. Encourage Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of youth development, recognizing the vulnerability of girls and young women, and the important role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality;

6. Note with appreciation the activities, special events, contributions and inputs of Member States and all stakeholders, including youth-led organizations, the private sector, civil society and the media, as well as United Nations entities, and take into account the input from youth-led organizations to the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth;

7. Recognize that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stress the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth;

8. Recall the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementing the outcomes of global conferences and summits and relevant programmes;

9. Stress the important role of effective sectoral and cross-sectoral national youth policies, reflecting youth in all its diversity, as well as of international cooperation in promoting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. Invite Member States to review and evaluate the implementation of their commitments to relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the relevant outcomes and programmes of action, including the World Programme of Action for Youth, and request the United Nations regional commissions to assist Member States in sharing information on national experiences, lessons learned and good practices in that regard;

11. Encourage Member States to continue developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating effective national youth policies, taking into account their cultural context regarding youth development, as well as to promote relevant regional programmes on youth;

12. Reaffirm our determination to give priority attention to the promotion of youth and their interests and to address the challenges that hinder youth development, in particular through poverty eradication, the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development and full and productive employment and decent work for all, and call for increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the formulation of, as appropriate, local, national, regional and international development strategies and policies;

13. Reaffirm the need for young people to be protected from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, bullying and cyberbullying, as well as from involvement and manipulation in criminal activities such as drug-related crimes, and recognize the need for the development of safe and youth-friendly counselling and complaint and reporting mechanisms for the redress of violations of their rights;

14. Reaffirm that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, including through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, the transfer of appropriate technology, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of youth, are crucial elements of efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration;

15. Welcome the ongoing efforts by Member States to implement their pledges to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledge the contributions of Member States, the United Nations entities, civil society organizations, including youth-led organizations, and the private sector to improve the situation of young people; note with concern, however, that, despite these efforts, substantial numbers of young people reside in areas where poverty constitutes a major challenge and access to basic social services is limited, especially for girls and young women, and that youth development remains hindered by the economic and financial crisis, as well as by challenges brought about by the food crisis and continued food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change, and also note with concern that the overall progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on issues relevant to youth, has been uneven;

16. Recognize that the majority of the world's youth live in developing countries and that development constraints pose additional challenges to youth owing to their limited access to resources, education and training, health care, employment and broader socio-economic development opportunities, and therefore request United Nations entities to take into account these development constraints when designing and implementing their programmes on youth in order to ensure that benefits reach young people living in developing countries equally;

17. Condemn the recruitment and use of youth in armed conflict, in contravention of applicable international law, deplore the negative consequences that it has on the youth involved, and call upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations entities, to take concrete measures and continue to support programmes to ensure the effective social and economic reintegration and rehabilitation of demobilized young people;

18. Recognize the importance of preventing and addressing youth crime, including drug-related crime, and its impact on youth and the socio-economic development of societies, as well as of protecting young victims and witnesses and supporting the rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusion of young offenders in society with a view to their assuming constructive roles;

19. Invite Member States, following the celebration of the International Year of Youth, to continue to place greater emphasis on, and expand their activities at the national, regional and international levels in promoting, including through human

rights education and learning, a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding among and with youth, as agents of development, social inclusion, tolerance and peace;

20. Reiterate that the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels is key to, inter alia, achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to implementing the outcomes of global conferences and summits, as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth;

21. Recognize the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations entities and their role in serving as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and, in this regard, request the Secretary-General to adequately support existing instruments so that they can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;

22. Encourage Member States, in cooperation with relevant actors, to promote dialogue and mutual understanding to better address youth-related issues, particularly as regards active youth participation, youth work, gender equality and the empowerment of women, social integration, full employment and decent work for all, access to quality education, the development of scientific and innovative capacities, scholarships and training, access to and safe use of information and communications technology, in particular in the interest of the protection of children and young people, access to health care, the elimination of discrimination, protection from all forms of violence, intergenerational solidarity, and the impacts of financial, economic and other crises;

23. Request the United Nations agencies, and invite the international community and civil society, as well as the private sector, to promote the broader youth development agenda and to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of good practices in order to support Member States in their efforts to achieve such progress, taking into account the fact that the primary responsibility for ensuring youth development lies with States;

24. Urge the United Nations entities, including specialized agencies, funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to support, upon request, the strengthening of national capacities and efforts in the development and implementation of national plans, policies and programmes that can accelerate the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the relevant outcomes and programmes of action, including the World Programme of Action for Youth;

25. Request the United Nations entities to enhance their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, through, inter alia, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, call upon the United Nations entities and relevant partners to develop additional measures to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and, in this regard, encourage close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

26. Request the Secretary-General to submit a report, with due regard to existing reporting obligations, to the Commission for Social Development at its

fifty-first session, on national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on how to address problems affecting youth, which report shall also evaluate the achievements and shortcomings of ongoing United Nations programmes related to youth and put forward concrete recommendations on how to more effectively address the challenges hindering the development and participation of youth, including through volunteer activities; how to improve the United Nations programmes and structures related to youth, including their coherence; how to better foster dialogue and mutual understanding among youth worldwide; and how to assess progress in these fields, and should be prepared in consultation with Member States, as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system; and also request the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that various youth inputs are duly shared with the Commission for Social Development during its deliberations;

27. Reiterate our request to the Secretary-General to propose a set of possible indicators linked to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the proposed goals and targets, in order to assist Member States in assessing the situation of youth, encouraging continued consultations with Member States;

28. Renew our resolve to fulfil our commitments to promote youth development, dialogue and mutual understanding, paying due attention to the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and relevant outcomes and programmes of action including the World Programme of Action for Youth. Therefore, we pledge to commit to the following actions:

(a) Call upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of Member States, 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;

(b) Also call upon donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the efforts of Member States in the implementation of this outcome document as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth;

(c) Address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation; improved employability; skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants; and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society; and, in this regard, request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;

(d) Urge Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, in this context, consider undertaking efforts towards the development of a global strategy on youth

employment with a focus on youth unemployment, and encourage Member States, employers' organizations, trade unions, the private sector, institutions of education at all levels, youth organizations and civil society, with the support of the international community, all relevant stakeholders, including financial institutions, and the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop partnerships in this regard to foster inclusive employment opportunities in the labour market, including through the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, taking into account regional and national particularities;

(e) Undertake appropriate measures, in cooperation with civil society, including youth-led organizations, educational institutions and the private sector, in order to strengthen international, regional and national partnerships, to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among young people with different racial, cultural and religious backgrounds;

(f) Increase efforts to improve the quality of education and promote universal access to education, particularly for young women, out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth migrants, and youth living with HIV and affected by AIDS, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that they can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including by appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes, non-formal education, as well as technical and vocational education and training, to develop and to participate fully in the process of social, economic and political development, since knowledge and education are key factors for youth participation, dialogue and mutual understanding;

(g) Promote and provide human rights education and learning for youth, taking particular account of young women, and develop initiatives in that regard, in order to promote dialogue and mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship among youth of all nations;

(h) Urge Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

(i) Adopt appropriate laws and develop strategies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against youth, in all settings, and to ensure the implementation of policies and adequately resourced programmes on ending violence against youth, including initiatives to support youth action to end violence through youth-led organizations and networks;

(j) Strengthen the use of information and communication technology to improve the quality of life of young people, and, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, promote universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through transfer of technology and international cooperation, as well as promote the development of locally relevant content and implement measures to equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed to use information and communications technology appropriately and safely;

(k) Ensure that young people enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing youth with access to sustainable health systems and social services without discrimination and by paying special attention

to, and raising awareness regarding, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases and sexual and reproductive health, as well as measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS;

(l) Promote youth participation in training and capacity-building for environmental issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, tackling desertification and other challenges, particularly for those who are engaged in agricultural production and play a vital role in providing food security, which is threatened by climate change;

(m) Promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially young people, regardless of their migration status, address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

(n) Urge Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(o) Encourage Member States, the international community, the United Nations system and the private sector to support youth-led organizations in achieving openness and inclusiveness and to strengthen their capacity to participate in national and international development activities;

(p) Encourage Member States to strengthen mechanisms for partnerships with civil society, including youth-led organizations, as contributions to youth development, and create effective channels of cooperation, dialogue and information exchange among young people, including rural and urban youth, their national Governments and other relevant decision makers, as appropriate;

(q) Call upon donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to support catalytic and innovative actions in the field of youth and to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations Programme for Youth, taking into account the need for a greater geographic balance of youth representation, and, in this regard, request the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund as well as synergy with other youth-related funds of United Nations entities.