



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 27 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/448)]

68/131. Promoting social integration through social inclusion

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that, in order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed to promote equality of opportunity so that no person is denied basic economic opportunities and the enjoyment of all human rights,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration and General Assembly resolution [66/122](#) of 19 December 2011 on promoting social integration through social inclusion,

Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹ in which Heads of State and Government acknowledged the great importance of promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, to meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note with appreciation of the commitment of several United Nations entities to mainstream social inclusion in their work and encouraging others to do the same,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to realizing the universal right to work and the right to an adequate standard of living, including by promoting access to employment opportunities, social services and social security programmes,

¹ Resolution 65/1.



Stressing that the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth that promotes full, productive and inclusive employment and decent work for all is necessary to eradicate poverty, including extreme poverty, and reduce inequality, and should be complemented, as appropriate, by effective social protection policies, including social inclusion policies,

Recognizing that the gains of economic growth should also benefit those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

Recognizing also that social inclusion and equity are intrinsically linked and that focusing on and investing in the most disadvantaged and excluded populations, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, is critically important for the acceleration of progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing further that social inclusion policies and systems play a critical role in promoting an inclusive society, and are also crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion and inclusion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Reaffirming the important role of corporate social responsibility and accountability in contributing to an enabling environment to promote inclusive economic growth and social integration,

Recognizing that social inclusion policies also strengthen the democratic process,

Stressing that social inclusion policies should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, including women who experience multiple forms of discrimination,

Acknowledging that the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations is crucial to formulating and implementing social inclusion policies that effectively achieve social integration, as appropriate,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting social integration, inter alia, through social programmes and support for the development of socially inclusive policies,

Stressing the importance of an enabling international environment, in particular enhanced international cooperation to support national efforts towards promoting social integration through social inclusion in every country, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building,

Expressing concern that, in times of economic and financial crisis and ongoing concern about energy and food insecurity, social exclusion can be exacerbated, and stressing in this regard that sustainable and reliable social inclusion policies and programmes can play a positive role,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²

² A/68/169.

2. *Stresses* that Member States, which bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should prioritize the creation of a “society for all” based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, access to basic social services and promotion of the active participation of every member of society, in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;

3. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities and that equity and social inclusion are important for achieving sustainable development, ensuring that individuals can participate without discrimination and contribute to its social, economic and environmental dimensions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of eradicating illiteracy and promoting equal access to and opportunities for quality education for all, inclusive education, especially for persons with disabilities, skills development and quality training as essential means for inclusive participation and integration in society;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote a more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, through inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which employment has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, ensuring social protection floors for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, as defined by each country in accordance with its individual circumstances, including on a demand-driven basis, and the promotion and protection of their social and economic rights;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider, when appropriate, the creation of national institutions or agencies for promoting, implementing and evaluating social inclusion programmes and mechanisms at the national and local levels;

7. *Encourages* Member States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to continue monitoring progress towards the relevant Millennium Development Goals, in particular regarding their indicators, as their achievement is an essential element in order to shape and promote national policies for social inclusion;

8. *Encourages* Member States to promote social inclusion as a matter of social justice in order to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and to help them adapt to the negative impacts of economic crises, humanitarian emergencies and climate change, and in this regard invites relevant United Nations entities and international institutions to support these efforts;

9. *Invites* Member States, and encourages regional organizations, to support national efforts to achieve inclusive societies, in particular in developing countries, upon their request, by providing, inter alia, financial and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of sound social inclusion policies;

10. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social inclusion policies, promoting the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations in planning, implementing and monitoring processes, in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations;

11. *Invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations to provide information on their activities promoting social inclusion and social integration and to exchange views and share good practices and data on the development of social inclusion policies;

12. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to advancing social integration and non-discrimination as an integral part of addressing inequality in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with civil society, to make every possible effort to address the needs of the most vulnerable and promote their participation in decision-making processes;

13. *Encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria for the formulation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving social inclusion, and stresses the importance of international cooperation in this regard;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, taking into account the information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

15. *Decides* to consider the question further at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Social development".

*70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013*