



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2016

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-fifth session

1-10 February 2017

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by Family Educational Services Foundation and American Pakistan Foundation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

In accordance with the fifty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD55), the priority theme "strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all" carries significant meaning for Pakistan civil society.

In the context of social development, Family Education Services Foundation (FESF), in collaboration with American Pakistan Foundation (APF) would like to emphasize the importance of a stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan which requires international collaboration to ensure Pakistan's emerging economy continues to grow through investment, trade, technology transfer, ICT, education and scientific exchange.

We would like to point out Pakistan's regional interconnectivity with the functionality of the Gwadar Port serves as a bridge to South Asia, Central Asia and China's economies. The newly functional China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides a multimodal transport network of quality infrastructure (power, highways, railways, pipelines), logistics and distribution networks to link production clusters, urban centers, and international gateways.

We believe that sustainable and substantive social development will be achieved in Pakistan as its democratic institutions are strengthened. Given Pakistan's checkered constitutional history, the recent steadfast equilibrium in the balance of power between the military and the government is a positive step towards strengthening institutions.

The recent turbulence testing institutional relationships indicate equilibrium and continued progress in Pakistan's path to democracy and an economically and socially developed environment.

As highlighted by the provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development ([E/CN.5/2016/L.1](#)), we emphasize the review of relevant UN plans and programmes of actions pertaining to the situations of social groups (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and (ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; and (iii) World Programme of Action for Youth; and the importance of social protection floors.

In the context of disability inclusion, we support the launch of the first comprehensive international Charter on Disability in October 2015 which asserts the common commitment to create inclusive workplaces for all people with disabilities around the world.

In Pakistan, for over thirty years, Family Education Services Foundation has dedicated its work to enhancing the quality of life for all members of the community, especially those who are disadvantaged. By investing in educational development, innovative training programs, development tools and services to enable recipients to gain competency and self-sufficiency, while empowering them to reach their full potential, Pakistan civil society supports ILO Global Business and Disability network principles and is dedicated to continue to make substantive gains in disability inclusion.

We strongly believe in the importance of formalistic global frameworks, such as the Business Charter on Disability, and the need for regional collaborations between civil society, respective member states, and the private sector in ensuring access and opportunity for inclusion in the workforce.

In the context of youth, Pakistan is witnessing a tremendous demographic divide. As one of the youngest populations in the world, Pakistani youth are in need of opportunities. And as research indicates, we firmly believe that integration and inclusion is best achieved through means of education and employment. We further affirm the need for inclusive based practices and policies.

We believe that in order to end poverty, insecurity and exclusion, and building up resilience, it is necessary to establish and strengthen the social protection systems as well. These systems contribute to the eradication of poverty, enhance human capital and productivity, and help reduce inequalities. Social protection as a human right has become an important part of the international development discourse.

The Commission on the recent Report on the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights ([A/HRC/29/31](#)) states (see para 51): “It is difficult to accept that a State that has no basic social protection floor in place, whether so called or not, is meeting its most basic obligations in relation to the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens and others”. We agree with this position that the Special Rapporteur’s vision and efforts.

We urge member states to establish social protection floors to include basic social security guarantees. These nationally defined set of essential goods and services should include (i) availability, accessibility and quality of essential health care; (ii) essential health care, including maternity care, that meets criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality; (iii) basic income security for youth (education and skill training — especially for the disabled); (iv) and basic income security.

We support the ILO’s Recommendation No. 202 concerning National Floors for Social Protection, and through our civil society network affiliates, strive to increase awareness of the positive impacts of social protection floors by engaging in dialogue at both the government and the civil society level.

In accordance with the follow up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, we emphasize the facilitation of national implementation and monitoring of programs.

And as poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge of our times, we urge Member States to continue an integrated economic and social policy approach by engaging a broad range of stakeholders.