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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: World Programme of Action for Youth

Portugal,* Republic of Moldova* and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,¹

Emphasizing that all fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/134 on the Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and highlighting various activities that are being carried out at the national, regional and international levels,

Stressing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ In paragraph 1 of its resolution 47/1, the Commission for Social Development reaffirmed the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Supplement thereto as a unified set of guiding principles, to be referred to henceforth as the World Programme of Action for Youth.



Stressing also 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,

Stressing further that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working on youth are necessary to make the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth",² and welcomes the recent increased collaboration among the United Nations entities in the area of youth development;

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth;³

3. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation in support of increased national efforts to achieve its implementation, including through official development assistance;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to continue implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth as a unified set of guiding principles for policies and programmes involving youth at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Encourages* Member States to make further efforts in strengthening their capacity to analyse the situation and well-being of young people at the national level in order to monitor progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to collect, on a continuous basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and gender, to use to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and requests the United Nations system to fully support national efforts upon request in this regard;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to further identify, develop and propose possible indicators to measure the progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in order to assist States in assessing the situation of youth, with a view to allowing it to be considered by the Commission for Social Development and by the Statistical Commission at the earliest opportunity;

8. *Stresses* the importance of recognizing young people as active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society, and in this regard also stresses the importance of involving them further as key stakeholders in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further improve the coherence and integration of the United Nations system-wide coordinated approach with regard to

² A/66/61-E/2011/3.

³ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

youth and, through this approach, to work on, inter alia, indicators relating to the World Programme of Action for Youth;

10. *Urges* Member States to involve and work together with youth-led organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth and share experiences and good practices in this regard;

11. *Calls upon* Member States, with the assistance of the international community, upon request, to promote the well-being of youth by developing effective national youth policies and programmes, in particular to address poverty and youth unemployment as an integral aspect of their national development agendas;

12. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth;

13. *Further calls upon* Member States to create effective channels for cooperation and information exchange among young people, their national Governments and other decision makers, and to support the establishment and functioning of independent national youth councils or equivalent bodies, including junior parliaments, with the assistance of the United Nations system where needed;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for 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;

15. *Urges* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

16. *Requests* 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;

17. *Recognizes* the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies and their role of serving as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to support adequately the United Nations Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat so that it can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;

18. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular donor countries, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in developing countries and to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries, taking into account the need for a greater geographic balance of youth representation, and in this regard

requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters;

20. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further increase coordination and collaboration in their work related to youth, including through United Nations regional commissions, and to further develop methods for promoting youth participation in initiatives on youth development;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Youth within the existing resources of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs so as to meet the increasing demands on the Programme to support, evaluate and review youth development in all its facets;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the efforts to develop possible indicators to measure the progress of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in order to assist States in assessing the situation of youth.
