



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012

New York, 2-27 July 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Self-Help Development Facilitators, a non-governmental organization 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2012/100.



Statement

Developing a global partnership for promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in Nigeria

Nigeria's governance albatross

A critical challenge facing Nigeria today remains job creation and decent work re-engineering for poverty mitigation. The rampant corruption that is currently ravaging Nigeria, resulting in unprecedented acts of looting, violence, terrorism and the escalation of unemployment, are directly attributed to the country's bad governance. Effectively addressing the issues of employment and decent work to eradicate poverty will inevitably require deconstructing, reframing and implementing new approaches to productive capacity-building. Its primary focus will be to put Nigerians first, away from the current situation of disconnection between the people and the Government.

A study of the personal aspirations and fears among some 2,876 Nigerians revealed that 69 per cent specified "improved or decent standards of living", while 60 per cent indicated "inadequate standards of living". The predominance of livelihood issues confirms the centrality of concerns regarding employment, safety and decent work among Nigerians. Such issues also constitute the outcomes enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals.

Most Nigerian students graduate into the unemployment and "unemployable" wilderness, for failure to acquire "employable" skills. Those employed harbour a nagging fear of an unknown future. Nigerian public sector workers retire into agony, indignity and endemic poverty, thereby experiencing a violation of their basic human rights.

The way forward

A sustainable solution must be anchored upon a solid policy framework aimed at strengthening governance and the rule of law, and empowering citizens to make officials accountable. Promoting productive capacity in order to mitigate poverty will involve forging productive partnerships aimed at reformulating policies, building consensus, implementing people-focused reforms, monitoring results, imbibing lessons from best practices and adapting what works.

A cross-cutting challenge that should be addressed is the governance model anchored upon the mindset of "its our turn to eat". To succeed, the "Nigerian factor" issues, that is, patronage and the bureaucratic governance model, lawlessness, politics without the people and lack of accountability and strategic thinking, must be definitively addressed. The organization's intervention for transforming governance, mitigating corruption and holding officials to account is the best practices and citizens' report-card initiative.

Against this backdrop, Nigeria's job creation and decent work strategy should, among other issues, be based on:

- Review and modification of successful growth-enhancing policies and reliable interventions from other countries, adapted to the Nigerian socioeconomic, cultural and political realities, and strategically implemented
 - A decent work focus, with an inclusive framework that ensures the well-being of everyone
 - Adoption of a new governance capacity-building model to achieve the outcome of fully addressing issues and the processes, systems and structures for achieving cultural change
 - Monitoring of the implementation of agreed interventions using reliable mechanisms
 - The organization's home-grown best practices and report-card initiative designed to hold officials to account, which could serve as a typical intervention requiring a global partnership for its institutionalization
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