



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 June 2019

Original: English

2019 session

26 July 2018–25 July 2019

Agenda item 5

High-level segment

Statement submitted by Fundação Antonio Meneghetti, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

As Sustainable Development Goal number 4 (SDG 4) (Quality Education) will be reviewed in depth at High-Level Political Forum of 2019, we would like to offer the contribution of our experience as a Brazilian foundation that searches to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality through means of educational extracurricular projects offered for free to the community of a countryside region of the South of Brazil. Some of these projects have been enchanting and changing lives of youth and children from the public network of schools of nine cities that compose the region where we are located: a youth orchestra; a school of soccer; classes of Literature; classes of Technology; practical classes of Environmental Education; and scholarships for young people from low income families to reach higher education and to study abroad. Among the projects targeted for an adult public, we offer an international congress about education which is held every two years in partnership with Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade (a college that is our partner). This congress convenes around 1,500 people every two years, most of them, teachers of the public network of schools from different regions of Brazil. Under the general theme “A New Pedagogy for a Future Society”, this congress is a free opportunity for these professionals to get together, learn from international lecturers and present papers about their experiences at their schools. The last of these congresses was organized in September of 2018 and had as a result a letter of proposals agreed by all participants. Among the many proposals collected, some are targeted to discuss the role of teachers in improving education for children and youth.

Here are some of the highlights of this specific section of the letter:

- It is necessary to invest in the preparation of teachers, not only in a technical point of view, but also in their humanistic formation so that they communicate in the classroom values such as the richness of the diversity of cultures and personalities among students;
- In education, digital experiences do not replace the need for human contact in classrooms; teachers and students should have international experiences in order to broaden their horizons;
- Ontopsychological pedagogy offers a new proposal to help improve the relation among student and teacher in the classrooms; children and youth should be motivated to have responsibilities, the compliments they receive should be directed to their good actions;
- It is important to waken in young people the will to make a difference in the world and to be a global citizen (education for a global citizenship, as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states; students should learn to respect their duties and rights and to respect the other;
- It is essential that young people develop capacity of critical thinking, of creating creative solutions and of discovering answers for existential questions in within themselves so that they can act more actively in building a better world for all; and, finally, extra-curricular projects organized by schools, foundations, NGOs, etc, have the power to strengthen public education offered by governments of developing countries.