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Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by the Jssor Youth Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 August 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Empowering Iraqi youth

These actions can be adjusted to each development context. Supporting partnerships, the availability of high-quality data and analysis, and responsibility are topics, which should be taken into consideration to facilitate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These actions should lead to integrating population emerging issues (migration, displacement, urbanization, population growth, gender, youth, reproductive health and rights, etc.)

The national efforts however depend on two things: first, actual implementation of the plans. Second, transforming the role of the government into a constructive role that realizes the potential of youth empowerment by addressing education as a right and an opportunity for empowerment and integration by introducing business management courses as a minor programme in all university faculties to enable youth to acquire education and management skills.

Activate the private sector and widen the scope of its business by minimizing those areas the state intervenes in directly (especially the banking sector) and by passing laws which will help create new investment opportunities and jobs for the youth – most importantly, the customs tariff law, labour law, and social insurance law. These actions should be based on national interests, striking a balance between economic and social goals, and also balancing the interests of all social groups in harmony with development goals.

Other means of advocating for the entrance of young people into the labour market include ensuring an investment environment that is attractive to private capital, adopting empowerment programmes to develop the skills of the unemployed, and providing soft loans to unemployed skilled workers and craftspeople.

- Business/communities linkages: empowering the youth with the necessary skills and competencies to increase their employability through the formation of youth community service centres that link youth up with businesses.
- Establishing business start-up programmes: to support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, in addition to apprenticeship programmes that build youth employability and hand-in-hand with credit programmes with a specific focus on young women.
- Enhance the vocational training for unskilled labour through introducing new technologies to the vocational training centres and even initiating twinning techniques in partnership with European technical institutions, and in south/south cooperation to upgrade the training level. Access should be increased to technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial skills training, with a special emphasis on information and communications technology.
- Furthermore, the establishment of business development centres and business incubators inside Universities and Vocational Institutes will help youth to start up their businesses, manage their small projects, and shift from being job seekers to being job creators.

However, achieving this goal depends on addressing other challenges, most prominently the non-enactment of a privatization law and the delayed restructuring of public institutions. In addition, the delayed enactment of social security and labour laws has frozen most of the initiatives and interventions.

The plan should be aiming at contributing to main outcomes:

1. Supporting Formulation and monitoring of a National multi-sectoral Youth Strategy, as well as its implementation at local level (district / municipalities)
2. Supporting Youth empowerment / participation mechanisms at national, regional and local levels;

3. Promoting information and life skills on health and social issues, through formal and non-formal education curricula, as well as through Youth-to-Youth Peer Education approach;
4. Securing community-based multidimensional Youth Friendly Services (health and social counseling), that are closely linked with employment/career counseling and grant/credit services

To achieve these goals, a fundamental shift is needed. We must make decisions on the allocation of resources while keeping the interests of future generations in mind. We must make investments in social sectors that improve the resilience of individuals and communities. And we must place the fulfilment of human rights at the centre of development.
