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Statement submitted by the International Association of Ontopsychology, 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/2011/100.

Statement*

Within the framework of the annual ministerial review theme for 2011, “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”, an international academic seminar was organized by the International Association of Ontopsychology of Italy in cooperation with “Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade” operating in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Pedagogical approach

A total of 128 students at the Master level (Maestrado) were selected by Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade and participated to this academic session, which began in April 2010, in Sao Paulo, and was concluded in Paris on 10 December 2010, at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of France, where a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) delivered the keynote speech on “The importance of the educational and cultural components in achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. Evaluation and ratings of these projects were conducted at that time.

The initial training and teaching were provided to the Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade students, in Sao Paulo, by international experts familiar with the Millennium Development Goals and jointly selected by the Geneva “Association internationale des formateurs en Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement” and by local Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade experts. The basic teaching covered 20 hours in Sao Paulo, followed by 20 hours of training on project management at Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade, as well as project monitoring of the students from May to October 2010 by those institutions. A three-member international jury for project evaluation was appointed by the institutions to review and evaluate the initial 60 initiatives by students, which were eventually merged into 16 Millennium Development Goals projects, plus a module on “Journalism and Millennium Development Goals Promotion”.

The 16 initiatives using ontopsycho logical approaches presented various ways to implement Goal 2, being interrelated with culture, music, fashion, health, agriculture, Corporate Social Responsibility, ICT and integrating all aspects of the Goals in municipal development programmes, in particular in the development of the municipality of Recanto Maestro in Brazil.

The common features of all these projects are their participative and cooperative aspects whereby university initiatives are designed, developed and work closely with the private sector and civil society organizations.

Each of the above initiatives is reinforced by a promotional website, by IT support and by video clips. The UNESCO mainstays such as “advancing academic freedom, research, innovation and creativity” were emphasized in the ontopsycho logical approach for a continuing lifelong education.

Recommendations

In conclusion, the following were recommended: (a) promote vocational training; (b) reduce disparities; (c) support gender equality in education; (d) encourage

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

investment in “Education for All”, in order to be able to access full employment and decent jobs; and that the above educational initiatives related to Millennium Development Goals become samples of a larger effort in all nations to accentuate the training and education of the Goals and on how they can be translated in concrete projects towards achieving them by 2015, and ensuring their sustainability thereafter.

It was also underlined at the Seminar which was held on the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that education was also a basic humanitarian right as recognized by Member States in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration.
