



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
24 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 Rehab Group, 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

For the benefit of both national and international economies, a collaborative approach which includes all stakeholders and which enables the sharing of proven methodologies is essential to ensuring that individuals gain the skills and productive capacity that they need to overcome unemployment and the challenges it creates.

The Rehab Group welcomes this opportunity to present a written submission to the Economic and Social Council 2012 high-level segment and would like to address the elements that are essential to ensuring that people have the productive capacity and labour market relevant skills to enable them to benefit from economic opportunities.

The Rehab Group is an international not-for-profit organization which operates in 250 locations across Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Poland and the Netherlands. It works with governments to provide tailored support to people who are out of work because of economic difficulties, disability, mental health or other disadvantage. It has experience of delivering and evaluating a range of different training and employment support interventions which support people who are, in some cases, very distant from the labour market to up-skill and re-skill in order to ensure their abilities are relevant to prevailing market conditions. In the experience of Rehab Group, a number of essential elements play a role in the development of effective employment:

- Early intervention, which enables individuals to quickly re-enter labour force activation measures following unemployment and to develop and retain their skills to ensure they are ready for opportunities as they arise;
- Training services must be labour market specific and should focus on developing productive capacity and meet the needs of all areas of the economy. Skills needs assessments should be carried out both locally and nationally to ensure that people can enter employment close to their own homes, where possible;
- Individualized training and support are required to enable people to overcome the varied impacts of unemployment in order to build the skills and the confidence to re-enter the labour market;
- Targeted interventions by specialists are required for individuals who experience greater challenges to labour market participation, e.g. unemployed young people, people whose unemployment is long-term, people who are affected by generational unemployment, disabled people, people with mental health difficulties, and others who are disadvantaged; it is important to minimize the negative impacts of unemployment;
- A mixed approach to training delivery focused on achieving outcomes which sees governmental and non-governmental providers and commercial entities cooperating in the same environment in order to provide for the needs of the market;
- A requirement and opportunity to participate in labour market activation measures that are enhanced by the availability of interesting and effective training opportunities;

- A sustained approach which allows individuals to maintain up-to-date skills regardless of the duration of unemployment;
  - Other non-employment-related opportunities to stay connected to the community through participation in community projects, and volunteering and other activities.
-