



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
8 October 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session

Third Committee

Agenda item 27 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Portugal, Republic of Moldova and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions [50/81](#) of 14 December 1995 and [62/126](#) of 18 December 2007,

Welcoming the participation of young representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly,

Affirming that the generation of a sufficient number of decent jobs for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled in order to increase youth employment, and emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including education, health and access to information and technology,

Taking note of the resolution and conclusions on the theme of “The youth employment crisis: a call for action”, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, held in Geneva in 2012, focusing on employment and economic policies for youth employment; employability, education, training and skills and the school-to-work transition; labour market policies; youth entrepreneurship and self-employment; and rights for young people,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host in 2014 a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, which identifies working with and for women and young people as one of the five generational imperatives and opportunities,



Reaffirming the importance of involving youth and youth organizations in all matters of concern to them,

1. *Acknowledges* that the current generation of youth is the largest one ever, reaffirms, in this context, the need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of development, and recognizes the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women and the need to eliminate discrimination against them, as well as the critical role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality in youth development;

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth;

3. *Emphasizes* that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

4. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth and youth organizations, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies based on the Programme of Action and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General¹ for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women and marginalized groups, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

6. *Reiterates* that access to high-quality formal and non-formal education, health care and information and communications technology is an important factor in enabling young people to acquire relevant skills for employability and entrepreneurial development and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people, including young women, have access to those services;

7. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for youth development, and urges Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities at all times;

8. *Urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard requests donors, specialized United Nations entities and the

¹ E/CN.5/2013/8.

private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;

9. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children and youth, is crucial for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support, and calls for the increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the development of such national development strategies;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of a fair globalization, encourages Member States to take measures that minimize the negative effects of globalization and maximize the benefits thereof, offer relevant education and training for young people to meet the needs of changing labour markets, guarantee the enjoyment by young migrants of full respect for their human rights, and underlines the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth and youth organizations in the elaboration of the emerging post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Urges* Member States to strengthen or establish, in collaboration with young people and youth-led organizations, youth-friendly programmes and policies to address substance abuse, youth violence and youth involvement in crime, and in this regard calls upon Member States to recognize the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth;

13. *Urges* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

14. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests United Nations entities to continue their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon United Nations entities and relevant partners to develop additional measures to support national, regional and international efforts to address challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters;

16. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and also requests the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that various youth inputs are duly shared with the General Assembly during its deliberations.
