



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2015

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-fourth session

3-12 February 2016

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social
development in the contemporary world**

Statement submitted by Institute for Interreligious Dialogue, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World: Progress in Advancing Social Development and Lessons Learned

Development means making a change in the social, economic and political sphere so that both quantitative and qualitative changes occur in all aspects of society, such as lifestyle, social welfare and so on. It includes the complete reconstruction of a society, creating new institutions in which a new civilization can be reconstructed and rebuilt. The development process is holistic and focuses on all aspects of public and personal life.

Social development is about social responsibility, responsibility of governments, workers and employers; government and people as members of the international community. Most importantly it is about rights — human rights — the right to development, the right to high quality services, the right to a healthy environment, and equitable sharing of the benefits of economic growth.

Social development mainly means increasing the capacity and organizational diversity of bilateral engagement and interest groups, as well as the political legitimacy of cultural and social values. In addition, development means increasing the interaction between civil society and the government so that their self-reliance and integrity is strengthened, and the overall balance of political and economic opportunities will be provided to the community.

In recent approaches to social development, experts have focused on the importance of treating issues in all dimensions of development. To realize social development on a global scale, it is necessary for all governmental and non-governmental organizations to take responsibility for achieving equality and sustainable development.

In recent years, climate change and global warming has been a critical issue that effect development. As we define development as the interrelated processes of human life, it is necessary to concentrate on environmental issues. The importance of making an agreement on environmental issues is important because of its universality. Considering it is not a political or economic or religious issue, nations and other powerful actors should come to agreement more easily and effectively.

The Institute of Interreligious Dialogue (IID) is an active organization that spreads the message of peace and justice among nations and believes that, to reach sustainable development, human beings need to use all devices and capacities. It is better for all religious leaders, philosophers, sociologists, politicians, researchers and experts cooperate with each other to find new solutions to address the increasing world crises.

IID defines some social development indicators and requirements and believes that if we consider them thoughtfully, we can achieve the goal of a people-centred world.

Financing for global development

- Provide opportunities for people to engage in economic activities and earn the right to meet their needs.
- Universal access to services, support, social security and welfare without discrimination.
- Redistribution of income opportunities and assets among various social groups and classes.
- Account for the complexity of the social structure, institutions and relationships that make up a community or larger societal group.

Social capital

Social capital is acquired when communication and relationships between members of a network contributes to the achievement of members' goals and objectives. There are eight important element of social capital: participation in local communities, acting in a social situation, trust and security, neighbourhood links, government and family bonds, capacity to accept differences, placing value on life and, working links.

Characteristics of social capital:

- It cannot be transferred
- Cannot be easily exchanged
- It is not the personal property of those who benefit from it — everyone benefits
- Targeted action that is fundamentally different from most other forms of capital.

How social capital can be created or increased:

Level of individual courses: Social capital can be created through direct public investment in education and training in cooperative skills.

Society as a whole (social policy issues): social behaviour is rooted in individual behaviour and creating social capital through community institutions is done through all institutions of society (families, schools, associations, etc.)

Participation of each child in education.

Stability of the social structure — instability results in the disruption of social organizations.