



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 November 2022

English only

Commission for Social Development

Sixty-first session

6–15 February 2023

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Statement submitted by Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate, 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

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate and endorsing organizations welcome the priority theme of the 61st session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) that focuses on “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate works in 43 countries in partnership with local people and communities to promote a more sustainable development and human rights for all at international and local levels. As a faith-based organization we are at the forefront in creating an inclusive society and working towards a holistic development for all, especially the marginalized sections of the society.

Over the years, our members have collaborated with local organizations, national governments, and other stakeholders to offer livelihood training for youth and women from marginalized sections of society and supporting them in creating jobs and livelihoods for themselves.

These initiatives include:

A computer training programme for 140 women from the Roma community in the Slovak Republic that is supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. This has provided the women who experience marginalisation, computer skills that could allow them to find work and engage in the community.

A skill development programme in India, supported by the Bihar Skill Development Mission (established by the Government of Bihar). Through this programme, our local network trained hundreds of young people, male and female, in computing skills, English and soft skills that allowed them to find employment in urban areas. They are earning sufficient wage for a decent living for themselves and their families. The programme has also empowered young people to be aspirational and consequently many are studying in higher education institutions or have applied for promotions and better work opportunities.

An Income Generating Programme for Women from the Dalit community in India where thousands of women benefitted from activities such as mushroom cultivation, detergent making, candle production and other income generating activities. This allowed them to earn an income that provides a decent living. The women belong to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and have also formed themselves into federations with a good amount of money in their own bank.

Loreto Rumbek in South Sudan provides a much-needed place of education for girls aged between five and twenty. The school offers primary and secondary education and offers a Primary Health Care unit for the students and their community. Many girls have benefited from the education provided by this school, completed further education, and are employed in various sectors, including in education and health.

Not all countries, however, are able to train and provide job opportunities to a large number of youth and women. Although non-government organizations like ours have either filled the gap or collaborated with local governments and organizations to address the issues, there is still a long way to go. The global unemployment rate is expected to reach 207 million by the end of 2022. We need more investments in education, training, and the creation of sustainable jobs especially in the care and green industries.

According to a new Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the total global number of

unemployed youths is estimated to be 73 million (2022), still higher than the pre-pandemic level. Young women are worse off than young men, exhibiting a much lower employment-to-population ratio. We need affordable quality education and training that provides knowledge and skills that are transferable and adaptable in order that young people, women, and men workers to transition in a fast-changing environment.

The ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022 report warns of a slow and uncertain recovery, as the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on global labour markets. The protection of the rights of workers is critical, especially for those in informal, gig and platform work, who often lack access to basic benefits and safe work conditions. In the current economic situation, they are more vulnerable to exploitation. Access to decent and safe work is a human right.

We support and reiterate the United Nations Secretary General's proposal in Our Common Agenda of the need for a new social contract that includes "governance arrangements to deliver better public goods and usher in a new era of universal social protection, health coverage, education, skills, decent work and housing, as well as universal access to the Internet by 2030 as a basic human right."

We call on all the Members States to:

- Invest in quality education and universal social protection.
- Consider social investment policies seriously. This means policies designed to enhance and strengthen young people and women's skills and potential, which will help them to earn and participate in employment and social life.
- Enforce public policies which encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises, which can be achieved through strengthened access of the public to gender-specific financial support services and credit.
- Increase investment in the care and green economy and create more job opportunities for women and youth.
- Provide vocational training for the youth, including out of school youth, that will create pathways for employment.

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