



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 November 2016

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-fifth session

1-10 February 2017

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social, Ecológica y Cultural, 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

Strategies to achieve sustainable development for all human beings

Introduction

When an individual or community achieves the satisfaction of their basic needs including education in values, poverty can be avoided. Poverty is an abnormal condition which primarily results from decreased access to basic resources such as to live with safety, well-being and peace. Secondly, poverty can result from a lack of education in values, which can provide access to better opportunities.

To draw effective strategies to eradicate poverty, and achieve building a just and equal society, we must understand that poverty is caused by systemic values of society. It is engrained in society that we cannot eradicate poverty. To change this thinking, formative training and education in values is required. Poverty is the result of a lack of values present in generations of society where a pattern of inequality and lack of solidarity generate poverty that has spread with ignorance and unconsciousness. The same lack of values is what creates an attitude of seeing others as unequal leading to discrimination, corruption; violation human rights, disregard for gender rights and the denial of access to resources.

Poverty is a social disease with symptoms including: inequality, ignorance, lack of opportunities and lack of access to economic means which provides basic needs including education, food and shelter.

We remember the story of a researcher who comes to a distant village that had no contact with modern civilisations, and asks the head of the tribe if there are banks, money, transportation, cell phones or television in the village? The Chief answered, “No, we don't have anything like that” and asks, “What are those things for?” The researcher responds, “Well, they exist to create happiness”. The Chief responds with a big smile, “Oh we have plenty of that here. Our people are generous, respectful to all life and the environment, know how protect species and coexist, love what they do for a living, respect and value older persons, honour the ancestral wisdom of their grandfathers and dedicate their time and love to children. We do not need what you are asking for to be happy!”

Any strategy aimed at poverty eradication, should focus first on raising awareness through education on values, and secondly, in reducing limiting patterns and beliefs that enables those experiencing poverty to experience a state of vulnerability and scarcity. With this it is possible to encourage people who are aware, self-sufficient, caring, honest, responsible and generous individuals who value themselves and as they overcome and improve their economic condition, will also help others to overcome.

Objective

Contribute to eradicating poverty and inequality in the world, through the implementation of an effective method and a global commitment that is applied in a uniform manner in each nation of the world.

Purpose of the statement

Share the highly effect methods applied by FIADASEC for more than 30 years to eradicate poverty with the international community. FIADASEC has worked with people and communities from 14 countries in America and Europe, with different economic, social, cultural and ideological levels achieving 90% effectiveness.

General information on the subject, as is related with the work of the NGO;

Nearly a quarter of humanity is either experiencing poverty or is vulnerable to poverty. Poverty continues to increase proportionately to the growth of the global population. This generates a social and environmental, unsustainable pressure over time. For this reason there is no need to discuss a lack of opportunities but instead a lack of preparation and motivation to access opportunities.

Specific examples of our achievements and challenges;

FIADASEC has been in operation for 30 years, transforming the lives of thousands of people who put into practice the techniques and knowledge required to overcome their limitations and climb to a better social position, out of poverty.

FIADASEC's Centers of Development and Social Actions (CEDAS) are an example of actions to overcome poverty. We are established in communities of extreme poverty in Dominican Republic as centres of best practices to encourage the development of vulnerable communities.

The centres encourage the community to participate in educational and cultural activities that help them overcome difficulties in their communities including training activities for better employment opportunities and situations.

Permanent activities conducted by FIADASEC through courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, the essential living program, international congresses are all focused on the improvement and transformation of the human being. FIADASEC is convinced that change in thinking is the key to overcome any limitation and achieve a real and sustainable solution that benefits the person itself and society in general.

All persons that have experienced a FIADASEC program has gained the determination to exit the poverty cycle by believing they can achieve their life's purpose with the inclusion of social and human values.

FIADASEC has a permanent program of sensitisation of the community which involves educating attendees on issues that generate important changes such as children's education, family planning, domestic peace and prevention of disease. The program supports those involved in the search for common solutions to their main problems.

This idea has been included in degrees or diplomas of Education. In coordination with the Dominican Republic Ministry of Education in this method new teachers are trained on how to create a new awareness in the population. With this programme we are currently reaching 120 school teachers.

The main challenge faced is the attainment of the necessary resources to carry out these programs, in such a way that it can cover a greater number of people and communities.

A step forward: expectations and specific recommendations

We have witnessed no participants return to the cycle of poverty. We have also seen a multiplier effect that is generated in each person who has been benefited by this education.

Our recommendation is that all plans developed should be based upon the education of the human being. Programs should be based on education of the conscience, incorporation of the essential values of each individual and promote the healing of the personality. Each program's goals should include replacing patterns of scarcity and limitation with patterns of abundance, generosity, self-confidence and freedom. We believe it is essential to promote technical and vocational training so people can earn their income fixed and worthy, developing in the participants a different life vision increasing awareness that they can achieve what they want, and be useful to society and nature.

Conclusion

Poverty can only be eradicated from within, through education in values and changing beliefs. A change in a way of thinking has the potential to achieve permanent behavioural change and a new way to proceed, to act and live.
