United Nations E/CN.5/2018/NGO/75

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2017
English
Original: Russian

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-sixth session
31 January–7 February 2018
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 the International Informatization Academy, 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

Title: Strategy for the elimination of poverty in order to achieve sustainable development for all. Goals and means of increasing food production as a prerequisite for sustainable development for all, first and foremost in problem areas of the world.

Introduction, objective and purpose of statement

The Academy carries out its activities taking into account United Nations programme documents. It has become actively involved in the implementation and discussion of the 2030 Agenda drawn up by the United Nations.

The problems of increasing food production and food security — as an important requirement for poverty eradication, which is always accompanied by famine and limited access to sufficient, high quality food — have become the main topic of scientific analysis and the search for effective and innovative solutions.

In its activities, the Academy is guided by the principles of Goal 17 — partnership for sustainable development — and creates partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of this statement is to draw the attention of NGOs, regional authorities, investors and the media to the need for joint, coordinated steps to increase the efficiency of food production as a prerequisite for sustainable development for all.

Overview of the issue as it relates to the work of the NGO

The International Informatization Academy was founded in 1990 and is an independent international public association of scientists and experts in the field of information, information resources and technologies, and innovative applications, who are promoting sustainable development and furthering world progress. Over the past 27 years, about 18,000 nationals of various countries have become members of the Academy.

The ideology of the Academy's activities is based on informational unity between scientists, developers and companies working in the most varied scientific, economic and social fields who are united by a common understanding of their responsibility for the fate and future of civilization.

As an international non-governmental organization, the Academy sees its mission as one of bringing together creative and intellectual resources for the purposes of development, and building a harmonious information technology environment and an open and committed international dialogue aimed at finding effective solutions to global problems and challenges in line with the interests and aspirations of the peoples.

In recent years, on the basis of this approach, the Academy has established specialized units which focus on sourcing, developing, implementing and disseminating innovative solutions in the sphere of food production. Specifically, these issues are handled by a special Climate Change Department and a Food Security Division.

Specific examples of accomplishments by the NGO and remaining challenges

A first and important example of partnerships for sustainable development was Project Climate Smart developed by the Academy in cooperation with scientists and specialists of the Data Transmission Network (DTN) company.

The goal of Project Climate Smart is to introduce new cloud technologies in agriculture and, on their basis, to enable climate monitoring that will make it possible to increase food production and also reduce the adverse impact of high weather volatility and natural disasters.

Project Climate Smart is based on the following principles:

Climate change is resulting in increased weather volatility, including extremes of precipitation and temperature, droughts and floods.

Even small changes in local climates can have very serious effects on agricultural production in many areas.

Improved observations of weather conditions on individual farms and fields will allow better measurement of the impact of climate change on agriculture and lead to greater food production through improved efficiency.

Most existing meteorological observation networks are incapable of providing the weather measurements needed for precision agriculture, as they are usually located in cities or at airports, and not in rural areas where farms are located.

The proposed weather measurement technology involves the establishment of small, inexpensive and efficient meteorological stations using cloud technologies to support precision agriculture.

It is highly significant that a denser network of meteorological stations can serve as a basis for obtaining better climate data in rural areas where such data is currently scarce or non-existent and climate threats to agriculture are high.

Experience with precision agriculture has shown that food production is increased when precise information about weather is used, which leads to significant improvements in the efficiency of food production and makes it possible to reduce expenditure on chemicals and fertilizers and energy use (which is already a positive factor from the point of view of environmental impact) for irrigation and cultivation.

The technologies of Project Climate Smart have already been in use for some years on farms in North America and have gained very positive feedback and results.

Project Climate Smart was presented at a special side event of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), held on 15 May 2017. A special side event also took place at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 13 July 2017. Scientists, NGOs and also representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations, including Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sweden and Tunisia, took part.

It was decided to recommend broad implementation of Project Climate Smart.

The participants in the discussion agreed that support was needed from Government bodies as well as active involvement of NGOs in the promotion of multilateral cooperation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Interest was expressed in organizing pilot Climate Smart projects as soon as possible in various countries, in particular those which have the greatest need for intensification of agricultural production. In the outcome document of the event, a recommendation was made for the International Informatization Academy to coordinate those activities and conduct them in partnership with structures of the Economic and Social Council.

A second promising project was developed by the Academy's Food Security Division. Russian scientists and specialists have been working on this project for several years. This is a new innovative SSF technology — radio signals of a special spectral form.

With the use of SSF technology, innovative methods have already been devised and tested which can reduce rates of application of fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides, achieve faster growth in crop production and livestock rearing, significantly improve quality and add new attributes to output in various areas of production.

In the sphere of agricultural production, the results achieved have been an increase of between 10 and 25 per cent in yields of crops such as wheat, rice, corn, and sunflowers. The use of SSF technology also makes it possible to reduce the rates of application of fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides and at the same time to obtain the same or even better results.

The processing of fodder with SSF technology enhances its assimilability, lowers costs for animal maintenance on farms, increases live weight within shorter time frames and raises milk output.

Studies and practical experiments using SSF technology have been carried out for more than 20 years. There are official findings that the SSF signals themselves and SSF technology do not change the chemical properties of the targets, and do not cause genetic changes and mutations. In interaction with living organisms, the impact of the use of SSF may be compared with physiotherapy treatment or the creation of optimal conditions for growth — temperature, light, humidity and so forth. SSF stimulates the inherent resources of an animal organism, improves tone and increases immunity. At the same time, production costs are reduced by up to one half, final output is increased and its quality is improved without additional investment, and environmental security is enhanced.

The Academy's Food Security Department recently conducted tests of a new, unique innovative application based on SSF technology — an activator for fish feeding. Tests were carried out in September and October 2017 at the world-renowned Caspian scientific research institute for fisheries and showed a high (up to 60 per cent) growth in fish mass in sturgeon species compared with controls and significant declines in disease.

The innovative technology of increasing production efficiency by the SSF method is universal and can be used in countries of Southeast Asia, China, India, Latin America and Africa to improve their food security, taking into account the characteristics of the local diet, particularly in fish, poultry, pork and beef production.

A way forward: expectations, specific recommendations

The example of Project Climate Smart is an illustration of the great potential of NGOs in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This same example also clarifies a range of problems which arise in practice during work on the implementation of the Goals as a whole and in particular, on the issue of eradication of poverty in order to achieve sustainable development for all.

The most important role of NGOs is to consolidate efforts for the implementation of the Goals and, on the basis of professional monitoring, to find the most effective ways to solve global problems, and also to participate directly (when possible) in developing such solutions as well as new technologies to facilitate the implementation of the Goals. The International Informatization Academy, relying on its members and the scientific and innovative organizations

that they represent, actively uses both formats. At the same time, we seek to minimize efforts and expenditure (having completely excluded capital investment in projects) in the introduction of innovations. Under Project Climate Smart, no costs are envisaged for increasing acreage, or for new equipment or infrastructure. We are aware that effective and inexpensive solutions are needed to combat poverty. To scatter financing where it is already lacking is irrational and wasteful.

Cheaply, but quickly and efficiently — that is how the problems of poverty should be resolved. And it is precisely such solutions that should be supported by United Nations structures.

An effective model should be created for introducing the most valuable proposals — in all countries and for the whole world. This model should begin with an initiative of NGOs, their responsible and purposeful work. It should be continued at scientific and expert forums. It should have a system and the status of high-level recommendations from the Economic and Social Council for States and regions. And finally — it should have effective mechanisms for organizing and financing the stages of implementation and use.

In our view, the required accompanying conditions for the successful implementation of such a system should be wide-ranging information work, prestigious world contests of innovative proposals for the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognition at the global level of the merits of those (persons, organizations) who contribute significantly to solving global problems.

Closing sentence

As a specific closing sentence, we submit the following:

An institute of Sherpas — special guides for innovations for the Sustainable Development Goals — should be established under the Economic and Social Council. Today it is precisely implementation which is problematic.

In the first place, economically sound solutions are needed that can attract not only philanthropists, but above all investors and entrepreneurs. And for this, project developers are needed too — not in the usual business format, but in an expanded functional area that would include the project itself, the goals of the global Agenda, and the interests of regional authorities and contacts at high State levels.