

## **Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?**

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NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC

The IBREA FOUNDATION would like to express its appreciation for the Integral Segment of the ECOSOC and its mission to bring together the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In response to this year's topic, we would like to express our agreement with the idea that the eradication of poverty should be an integral objective of all policies. In our work with government counterparts in various countries as well as with civil society, we have clearly seen how poverty is an issue that must be tackled from all angles. It is not a one-sided concern, but has many dimensions to it.

In view of integrating poverty in all public policies, we would like to propose "social enterprise" approaches by governments, through which the creation of profit on the one hand, and social issues on the other hand, find a healthy balance. In other words, all policies, economic or social, should strike a balance between: 1) generating wealth, and 2) fair distribution.

The government policies and departments directly dealing with generating wealth for the country, such as economy, finance, trade, foreign investment, can integrate horizontal measures that allow for more fairness when it comes to the distribution of wealth, providing job opportunities, or setting goals and expectations.

At the same time, the government policies and departments directly dealing with social issues such as education, health, gender, can stretch the limits of their capacity and develop innovative ways to create productivity and unleash the power of the people for them to generate their own wealth. Often times, social policies can generate a dependency cycle, whereby the people living in poverty are passively waiting to receive aid, instead of finding creative ways of generating new income. Such government departments should integrate an aspect of profit creation and productivity. Even if on a small scale, everybody can be productive. This kind of policy helps generate more value overall. It also helps the people living in poverty gain their self-confidence and take more responsibility for their situation.

Ultimately, the key to make the eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies is empathy. We all want to eradicate poverty. This is something that no one can deny. There is increasing scientific evidence that proves that the human brain is empathetic by nature. Our brains are hardwired to feel other people's pain and to want to alleviate it. Poverty is the most pressing and urgent issue that we all share as human species. We must first and foremost get out of poverty. That's the most basic reason why all government policies should naturally recognize this primal need and call for action.