

## ECOSOC Resolution 2003/13

### **National and international cooperation for social development: implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda<sup>1</sup> and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>2</sup> and its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,<sup>3</sup> the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002<sup>4</sup> and its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>5</sup>

*Cognizant* of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

*Bearing in mind* the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995<sup>6</sup> and 12 June 2001,<sup>7</sup> submitted to the high-level segments of the

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

<sup>2</sup> A/57/304, annex.

<sup>3</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> E/1995/81.

Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

*Bearing in mind also* that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in that development and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

*Underlining* that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to creating an enabling environment conducive to the achievement of the goals of social development,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation,

*Recognizing also* the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS),

1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

2. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, inter alia, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world";

5. *Also reaffirms* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>8</sup> as a programme of the African Union for peace and sustainable development that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Stresses* the need for renewed political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being so as to achieve the objectives of social development;

8. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation

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<sup>7</sup> E/2001/83.

<sup>8</sup> A/57/304, annex.

by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

9. *Also emphasizes* the New Partnership objectives of eradicating poverty in Africa and placing African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

10. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development<sup>9</sup> and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>10</sup> and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and the need for ensuring, in the framework of the New Partnership, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

11. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership and, in this regard, urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership;

12. *Stresses*, in this context, the vital role of the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>34</sup> and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

13. *Welcomes* the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

14. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other major communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

15. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the

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<sup>9</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8) chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

16. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, inter alia, through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership;

18. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of Assembly resolution 57/7;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system;

20. *Acknowledges* the reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the New Partnership in his report on the priority theme for the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, "National and international cooperation for social development",<sup>11</sup> and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

21. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development continue to give due prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its future priority themes;

22. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

*42nd plenary meeting  
21 July 2003*

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<sup>11</sup> E/CN.5/2003/5, and Corr.1.