

## ECOSOC Resolution 2004/16

### **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 the Assembly 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 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 and Assembly resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> of 8 September 2000, the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>2</sup> of 16 September 2002 and General Assembly 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,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,<sup>3</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

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

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

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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>4</sup> and 12 June 2001<sup>5</sup> submitted to the high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

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

*Noting with appreciation* the commitment of the international community in its support of the New Partnership, and welcoming in this regard the outcome of the third Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

*Underlining* that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment for 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, and in this context notes the outcome of the fourth Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 4 to 7 May 2003,

*Recognizing also* the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major communicable diseases,

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, in a spirit of partnership, inter alia, 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;

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<sup>4</sup> E/1995/81.

<sup>5</sup> E/2001/83.

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a socio-economic programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Also 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 the mechanism 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;

8. *Notes* the progress made with respect to the African peer review mechanism, in particular the accession of a number of member States of the African Union to the mechanism, as well as the appointment of the Panel of Eminent Persons;

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

10. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

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

12. *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>6</sup> and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>7</sup> and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the need for ensuring, within 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;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters<sup>8</sup> covering the priority areas of the New

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

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> The clusters are: infrastructure: water and sanitation, energy, transport, and information and communication technologies; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS.

Partnership, and in that 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;

14. *Stresses*, in that context, the vital need for the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

15. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria 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;

16. *Notes* the African Union declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of July 2003, in which the Union recognized the need for the formal integration of the New Partnership into the structures and processes of the Union, as well as the need to sustain the momentum, genuine interest, support and solidarity created by the New Partnership;

17. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

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

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

20. *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 General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002;

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

22. *Acknowledges* the reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the New Partnership in his report on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development" to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session,<sup>9</sup> and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

23. *Invites* all development partners, including regional and international development partners and the United Nations system, to support the governance and public administration programme and the

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<sup>9</sup> E/CN.5/2003/5 and Corr.1.

Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service through the provision of critical resources and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future, as outlined in the Stellenbosch Declaration;<sup>10</sup>

24. *Acknowledges* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of the New Partnership;

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

26. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”.

*47th plenary meeting  
21 July 2004*

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<sup>10</sup> Declaration of the fourth Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 4 to 7 May 2003.