



NGO Committee for Social Development

Promoting Social Integration:

Voices from the Grassroots

February 2011

Preface

'Social Integration' is one of the three pillars of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development. Fifteen years have gone by since world leaders made a commitment at the World Summit for Social Development to *Achieve a Society for All*. The adoption of the **Resolution on Promoting Social Integration**¹ by the 48th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development is one of the hopes for the *bottom billion*, who still dream for a life of dignity. This report from the grassroots which presents a record of the implementation of the Resolution echoes the call in the UN Secretary General's Report² to all stakeholders to accelerate efforts in promoting social integration as a forerunner to eradicating poverty.

Executive Summary

In a survey conducted by the Non-Governmental Organization CONGO Committee for Social Development (NGO Committee for CSocD) and the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in the fall of 2010, 180 civil society groups from 60 countries responded to three questions designed to reveal their awareness of the *Resolution on Promoting Social Integration* (E/CN.5/2011/1) and the efforts made by their national governments to implement that same resolution. The summary of the responses which follows reflects civil society's awareness of new policies and programmes introduced by their respective governments since the adoption of the Resolution.

More than 80% of the respondents reported at least some awareness of the Resolution. Respondents report that a variety of different social protection programmes have been established but that few of them apply to those working in the informal sector.

The largest section of this summary reports the concrete suggestions made by the respondents to enhance the implementation of the Resolution. The full report contains detailed results of the survey, reporting responses from 60 countries from the five regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia. However, for the purpose of the executive summary, we will list only the concrete suggestions that were most often mentioned regardless of the regions from which they originated.

- 1. Enforce existing laws and policies on promoting social integration:** Many respondents highlighted concerns about implementation gaps in existing social policies and laws. They called for an increase in evaluation and monitoring by civil society rather than promoting new social policies and laws. They further called for actions to create decent employment to result in the inclusion of previously marginalized persons into the formal sector workforce.
- 2. Enhance participation by civil society and grassroots:** Civil society affirmed the importance of enhancing the participation of all citizens to ensure implementation of the existing policies including the strengthening of local governance structures. Citizens should be at the heart of the process of designing and monitoring the delivery of quality public services.
- 3. Ensure access to information:** Local media should be used to pass on information among people living in remote areas and to raise awareness about rights and social policies. This includes the exchange of information and dialogue between political decision-makers and civil society leaders.
- 4. Eliminate corruption:** Effective measures to eliminate corruption and address impunity among representatives of governments and development partners should be put in place including transparency in the areas of political campaign finance, resource management and programme funding.
- 5. Focus on women's equality:** Respondents emphasized the promotion of women's equality from the following perspectives: protection against domestic and sexual violence and abuse, access to land, the right to inherit, access to health care, education, and participation in decision-making. Education of the girl-child and special programmes for women soldiers returning from the violence of war were highlighted as was also the need for attention to families. Fair and gender-responsive legal systems were also identified as a need.
- 6. Focus on the most vulnerable in providing basic needs and services:** Special attention should be given to the provision of basic needs, services and social protection to vulnerable populations. Groups identified include indigenous peoples, the unemployed, prisoners, people with disabilities, street children, older persons, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and all those living in extreme poverty in slums or rural areas. Further, people-centred investment and job creation are essential for long-term social and economic development.
- 7. Address needs of migrants and refugees:** Respondents identified a need for fair policies to protect migrant workers and their families in both sending and receiving countries.

8. Increase efforts to address societal divisions and human trafficking: Continued efforts need to be undertaken to eliminate discrimination, based on race, caste, religion and gender. Also the elimination of human trafficking is seen as an important step to achieve social integration.

9. Promote aid effectiveness to strengthen governance and improve development performance: Policies to tackle efficiency problems including monitoring during the execution of social projects were requested. Respondents mentioned specifically the implementation of existing agreements such as the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

10. Address the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Respondents suggested that special focus must be given to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and reiterated the importance of policies related to the caring for persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

11. Additional Suggestions: Included were the following: programs for the reintegration of child, women and men soldiers into peacetime societies; enhanced debt relief in poor countries and promotion of microfinance as a source of employment and development; human rights-based approaches to poverty eradication and the importance of the Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; and implementation of policies to address the impact of climate change on poverty eradication.



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Summary Report

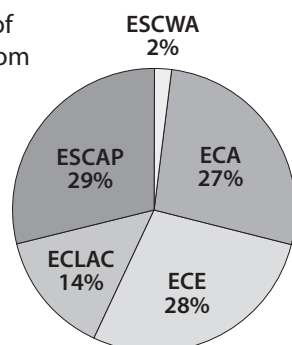
I. Introduction

In an effort to engage civil society in the follow up to the survey on *Good Practices for Social Integration*³, the NGO Committee for Social Development, in collaboration with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) carried out a survey on the **Implementation of the Resolution on Promoting Social Integration**. The 180 survey respondents from 60 countries cover the five regions, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Western Asia as indicated in the table below.

Table: 1 Number of responses from countries in ECOSOC Regions

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific	Western Asia
Angola(2)	Austria(2)	Argentina (2)	Australia(6)	Lebanon (2)
Benin(1)	Belgium(1)	Bolivia(1)	Bangladesh (2)	Yemen (1)
Burundi(2)	Canada(2)	Brazil (4)	India (23)	
Congo-Brazzaville(1)	France (2)	Colombia(2)	Iran (2)	
Cameroon (4)	Germany(1)	Costa Rica (1)	Indonesia (1)	
Congo(5)	Ireland (1)	El Salvador(1)	Japan (1)	
Djibouti (1)	Italy (1)	Guatemala (1)	Malaysia (1)	
Gabon (1)	Poland (1)	Jamaica (1)	Myanmar (1)	
Guinea (1)	Spain (7)	Mexico (7)	Nepal (2)	
Kenya (1)	Switzerland(1)	Nicaragua(1)	Pakistan (4)	
Lesotho (1)	USA (32)	Panama(2)	Papua New Guinea (3)	
Mozambique (1)		Paraguay(2)	Philippines (3)	
Niger (1)		Peru (1)	Thailand (1)	
Nigeria(3)			Taiwan Province of China (2)	
Rwanda (1)				
Senegal (1)				
Somalia (1)				
South Africa (4)				
Tunisia(1)				
Zambia (15)				
Total - 48	Total - 51	Total - 26	Total - 52	Total - 3

Percentage of responses from regions



There were 48 responses from 20 countries in Africa, 51 responses from 11 countries from Europe, 26 responses from 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 52 responses from 14 countries from Asia-Pacific and 3 responses from 2 countries from Western Asia.

The survey *Voices from the Grassroots* consisted of 3 questions:

1. To what extent is the NGO Community in your country aware of the 2010 resolution on Social Integration and its recommendations?
2. What new programmes/policies have been initiated in response to the policy recommendations?
3. What one or two concrete suggestions do you have for the implementation of the policy recommendations during the coming years?

In this report, we summarize the responses of civil society to these 3 questions.

The NGO Committee for Social Development welcomes civil society's engagement in responding to the survey and appreciates the technical assistance provided by the UN NGLS in reaching out to civil society. The Committee also acknowledges the generous services provided by experts and translators in documenting this report.

The *Voices from the Grassroots* is a wakeup call to deepen our commitments towards implementing our promises so that all people may live in dignity.⁴ Since A/HRC/15/41 states, "Social exclusion and discrimination are major causes and consequences of poverty";⁵ we hope that this report will be used as an advocacy tool by all stakeholders as we engage in the two-year cycle of the Commission for Social Development⁶ on its priority theme *Poverty Eradication*.

II. Voices from the ECOSOC Regions

NGO Community's Awareness of the Resolution

Awareness of the *Resolution on Promoting Social Integration* adopted by the Commission for Social Development varied with 16.6% of the respondents being very aware to 11.1% being not at all aware. 66.7% were somewhat or very little aware of the Resolution. 5.5% of the participants did not respond to the question.

New programmes and policies initiated in response to the Resolution

Table: 2 Responses from the regions on new programmes initiated

New Programmes	Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific	Western Asia
Water	14	7	12	11	2
Health	20	7	10	12	2
Sanitation	11	5	11	11	1
Education	18	8	8	11	2
Nutrition	12	5	9	9	2
Employment	13	4	5	5	1
Civic	20	27	17	27	3
Social	32	29	21	38	2
Economic	25	22	11	20	1
Political	23	25	10	27	32
Formal Sector	29	29	16	31	3
Informal Sector	11	13	11	16	2
Unemployed	16	27	17	22	2
Women					
Employment	34	30	18	30	3
Informal Sector	11	23	11	15	1
Inheritance	27	28	16	30	3
Property	38	29	15	32	3
Discrimination	32	21	14	27	3
Sexual & Physical Violence	31	26	21	29	1
Domestic Violence	30	26	21	33	2
Decision-Making	30	30	9	29	2

Respondents from all 60 countries are aware of programs that respond to the basic needs of people and facilitate effective participation of people living in poverty. Some social protection programmes have been established in all countries but among these, few countries provide social protection for people who work in the informal sector. There are many areas in which gender equality is implemented, but these vary from country to country.

Concrete suggestions proposed by the survey respondents for the implementation of the policy recommendations in the coming years are the following:

1. **Enforce existing laws and policies on promoting social integration:** Across the regions, respondents suggest that more attention be paid to implementation of policies already adopted.

Table 3: Number of responses from the regions relating to existing laws and policies

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and the Pacific
Congo (1)	Canada (1)	Brazil (2)	Australia (1)
Cameroon (2)	USA (2)	Costa Rica (1)	Bangladesh (1)
Nigeria (2)	Austria (1)	Guatemala (1)	India (13)
Rwanda (1)		Jamaica (1)	Papua New Guinea (1)
Zambia (3)		Mexico (4)	Philippines (1)
Mozambique (1)		Paraguay (2)	Taiwan Province of China (1)
Kenya (1)		Peru (1)	

Eleven respondents from the Africa region indicated that although social policies and laws exist, either they are not implemented at all or little attention is paid to them. The need to monitor government officials and to hold them accountable for enforcing appropriate policies and laws, as well as a need to evaluate existing laws was highlighted in several countries. One of the respondents stated, “There are so many beautiful laws that never work, and so life, particularly for the powerless, remains the same if not getting worse.”

Four respondents from the Europe indicated that they did not respond to the question because the country has extensive laws which are enforceable. One suggestion was to prioritize those programs to be implemented and ensure that people are aware of the results.

Twelve respondents from the Latin America and the Caribbean region considered the reinforcement of specific regulation and current policies that promote social integration a top priority. According to the responses, the implementation of laws to guarantee the social well-being of people living in extreme poverty has proven to be efficient and should be developed as a first step to create systems of social assistance. In countries like Brazil, social assistance centers (CRAS)⁷ operate to reach people in special situations such as victims of violence and sexual abuse, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Social capacity building has also been suggested as a long-term policy to support the social transformation of communities, bearing in mind that “social capital is equal to social justice”. Other suggestions included the creation of decent jobs with fair wages and just treatment by employers, incorporating the excluded into the workforce as a strategy to combat underemployment, and the promotion of partnerships between the public and private sectors to achieve social integration. Therefore, the reinforcement of existing laws and policies should strive to make those living in poverty and those who are excluded agents of their own development.

Eighteen respondents from the Asia and Pacific region have reiterated that although the governments have multiple policy frameworks put in place to promote social integration, there is a wide gap between existing laws and policies and their implementation. One of the respondents stated, “For example, failure to fully implement the Racial Discrimination Act and denial of procedural rights of those seeking asylum has produced devastating outcomes for some Indigenous communities and for asylum seekers who arrive by boat in Australia”. Survey respondents suggested that ensuring mechanisms for transparency, accountability and monitoring will enhance the implementation of the policies. Apart from enacting laws on promoting social integration, the State should ensure the implementation of the policies by all sectors, systems and levels, including the village level.

- 2. Enhance participation by civil society and grassroots:** Another common theme was the need to enhance participation of grassroots and civil society institutions in order to strengthen social integration.

Table 4: Number of responses from the regions relating to enhancing participation

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and the Pacific
Niger (1)	USA. (6)	Colombia (1)	Australia (2)
South Africa (1)	Ireland (2)	Guatemala (1)	India (10)
Zambia (2)	France (1)	Jamaica (1)	Nepal (1)
Benin (1)	Spain (1)	Mexico (2)	Philippines (3)
		Nicaragua (1)	Thailand (1)
		Paraguay (1)	

Five respondents from the African region suggested that basic government policy should favour decentralization for towns and villages so the people themselves can work towards sustainable development. One respondent stated, “There is no participation. Only when elections are near do they start providing opportunity”. Another indicates that there is little support for social and political activities.

There were 10 responses from Europe. One of the respondents from Ireland suggested “putting citizens at the heart of the process of designing and monitoring the delivery of quality public services.” Further, more attention to the “many roles of civil society organizations in modern democracies” should be explored. Another, from the USA, said “look beyond the policies and ask people about their lives”.

Seven respondents from the Latin America and the Caribbean region mentioned the necessity of including not only civil society, but all sectors (private and public) to enhance both the policy-making and the execution processes. Suggestions included encourage and support initiatives to raise awareness, promote values and encourage action by non-governmental organizations and civil society.

Seventeen respondents from the the Asia and Pacific region affirmed that enhancing participation of civil society at all levels will ensure implementation of existing policies. One of the respondents from Australia stated, "In addition to a fully implemented social inclusion policy, the highest priority should be placed on sustainable solutions, planned and implemented with effective participation from the communities that carry the burden of the economic, energy, environmental and health crises: women, girls, indigenous, refugees and those living in poverty". Other survey respondents emphasized that effective implementation of policies requires promotion of people's participation; planning and monitoring by the communities with a bottom up approach; grassroots-level infrastructure for concrete action and local initiatives; active involvement of all sectors in the development process including civil society organizations, workers and employers, and corporations (small and medium-sized businesses). Partnership of all becomes part of national and international cooperation and collaboration with local governance structures.

3. Ensure access to Information: People need information in order to participate effectively.

Table 5: Number of responses from the regions relating to ensuring access to information

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and Pacific
Djibouti (1)	USA (2)	Colombia (2)	Australia (2)
Guinea (1)		Mexico (1)	India (5)
Gabon (1)		Nicaragua (1)	Pakistan (1)
Zambia (2)		Panama (1)	Papua New Guinea (2)

There were 5 responses from the African region. One respondent suggested that local media be used to pass on information to people in remote areas. Another suggested the establishment of a framework for meetings, exchange of information and dialogue between political decision-makers and civil society leaders. Another suggested, "Access to information for all the schools and lycées as well as in professional training centers could increase poverty eradication as well as foster entrepreneurship. This would improve the precarious situation in which my brothers and I live."

There were 2 responses from Europe. One suggested bringing the contents of the Resolution into the media and especially to social networking media such as Facebook and Twitter. This "raises awareness among people who would not usually be exposed to ideas such as those in the resolution".

Five respondents from the Latin America and Caribbean region suggested the implementation of information campaigns to promote the knowledge of existing rights

and social policies among the population as a way to increase participation and improve people's capacity to bring pressure on governments. In many cases, the majority of the population is not certain of its rights. In Panama, for example, it was noted that "the government has modified laws in the penal code against discrimination, domestic violence, labor exploitation, however these laws are not widely known to the affected population".

Ten responses from the Asia and Pacific region stated that intensive and full scale social awareness campaigns are desired for various civil society actors to become aware of all the provisions of law that facilitate social integration and be motivated toward their implementation. This will enable them to avail of the benefits of the law to a greater extent. One of them said, "We do not lack laws in India; what we lack is awareness and a sense of social responsibility.... though the *Right to Information Act* has been enacted, very few make use of it effectively for common good". Further, citizens must be educated to hold their elected representatives accountable for the implementation of laws. Various forms of media must be used to ensure that the *bottom billion*⁸ have access to information.

4. Eliminate corruption: Corruption is widely seen as a barrier to effective government and aid programs.

Table 6: Number of responses from the regions relating to eliminating corruption

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and Pacific
South Africa (1)	USA (1)	Bolivia (1)	India (4)
Angola (1)		El Salvador (1)	Taiwan Province of China (1)
Gabon (1)		Mexico (1)	
Zambia (1)		Paraguay (1)	

There were 4 responses from the African region. One of them noted, "The level of corruption has attained alarming proportions, even to the highest level of the state". Effective measures are needed to eliminate corruption and address complicity among representatives of both governments and their development partners and governments.

One response from Europe recommended changing the laws on campaign financing and campaign contributions and suggested that this would result in better leaders.

Four respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean also stressed the need to address corruption. In line with the promotion of social policies that are people-oriented, policies should respond to current needs and not to other political interests. In some countries, such as Bolivia, "the criteria for the application of the policies

referring to health, education and the distribution of the resources should be based on the needs of people and not on the people that govern, on the density of the centers of population or on how close to the capital city or the seat of the government they are". In other responses, the right and freedom to demand accountability of corrupt government policies and the need for transparency in the management of the resources were also mentioned.

Five responses from Asia and the Pacific region stressed the need for a corruption free government and noted that governments must exhibit the political will to eliminate corruption in all its forms.

5. Continue to focus on women's equality: Lack of equality for women is a barrier to social integration throughout the world.

There were 15 responses on this theme from the African region. Women's equality was addressed from several different perspectives such as access to land and

Four responses from Latin America and the Caribbean region mentioned women's equality. Policy recommendations included to develop policies that support working women, pay more attention to domestic violence and promote gender equality in education at all levels.

Eight responses from Asia and the Pacific region emphasized the need for a change of attitude to promote gender equality. Women's right to property and gender equality in decision making are a dream for many. Women still do not have the freedom to report sexual violence in the workplace or domestic violence using help lines and support systems. Suggestions include ensuring that women and children have access to fair, gender responsive legal systems and eliminating abuse of women's rights in issues related to religion. One of the respondents from India stated, "All development policies promoting gender equality must include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people".

Two responses from Western Asia, one each from Lebanon and Yemen suggested continued emphasis on women's equality.

Table 7: Number of responses from the regions relating to women's equality

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific	Western Asia
Burundi (2)	USA (3)	Costa Rica (1)	Australia (1)	Lebanon(1)
Congo (1)	Italy (1)	Guatemala (1)	India (3)	Yemen(1)
Niger (1)	Switzerland (1)	Mexico (1)	Iran (1)	
Tunisia (1)		Panama (1)	Pakistan (1)	
South Africa (2)			Papua New Guinea (1)	
Cameroon (1)			Thailand (1)	
Guinea (1)				
Zambia (6)				

inheritance, education, participation in decision-making activities at all levels, and protection against violence. The promotion of education for the girl-child, and facilitation of girls' attendance at schools, and special programs for women soldiers returning from war who have suffered gender violence during the time of conflict were suggestions that were country-specific. Respondents from several countries noted that attention to families would benefit both women and children. The need for women's access to health services was expressed by a participating group of students in these words: "We want the governments to provide maternal health because we don't want our mothers to die with babies."

There were 5 responses from Europe. The respondent from Italy suggested that governments "consider young and single mothers by passing a law to protect them against violence and abuse". From the US, "all policies particularly those that target the equality of women must be continually worked on".

6. Focus on the most vulnerable in providing basic needs and services: Across all regions, respondents recommended special focus on vulnerable populations and provision of basic services as essential for social integration.

There were 9 responses from the African region. Needs highlighted in the responses were health services, education, employment, nutrition, water and roads. Special attention needs to be given to people living in rural areas and people with disabilities. It was noted that promises were made to provide some of these basic necessities but they have not come to fruition.

Eight respondents from Europe highlighted the need to focus on various vulnerable populations. Many vulnerable groups were mentioned including indigenous people, the unemployed, prisoners, and those living in poverty.

Table 8: Number of responses from the regions relating to most vulnerable people

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific	Western Asia
Congo (2)	Canada (2)	Brazil (2)	Australia (2)	Lebanon (1)
Niger (1)	Spain (3)	Guatemala (1)	Bangladesh (1)	Yemen (1)
South Africa (1)	USA (3)	Mexico (2)	India (6)	
Zambia (5)		Paraguay (2)	Malaysia (1)	
		Peru (1)	Nepal (1)	

Eleven responses from Latin America and the Caribbean region mentioned basic services and extreme poverty as the main targets of their policy recommendations. It was noted that, generally “the basic needs of the least favored sectors are not covered, social protection is not adequate and its quality is deficient”. In most of the responses, education was considered a basic tool to promote social integration and poverty eradication. Providing access to education for technical and professional positions, especially those in rural areas, was strongly recommended. In general, according to information from the survey, “the more education they have (the excluded sectors), the more integral development they get”. In conclusion, hunger, sanitation problems and lack of technical assistance are still widespread and need to be taken into consideration.

Fourteen responses were from Asia and the Pacific region. The respondent from the Philippines suggested to the governments, “To concentrate rigorously on eradication of poverty and hunger, empowerment of the people living in poverty, people centered investment in long term social and economic development, job creation and decent work that promotes productive employment and gender equality, ...quality education for all, protection of human rights and respect for human dignity, equal opportunities and social integration of social groups such as youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants, persons living with HIV/AIDS and indigenous peoples and effective implementing guidelines for the protection of the environment”. Survey respondents said that social security for all should be a priority for the governments. Policies and programmes should address the needs of their ageing populations.

Two respondents from the Western Asia region suggested attention to the most vulnerable. Among the populations specifically mentioned were street children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

Table 9: Number of responses from the regions relating to migrants

Europe	Asia-Pacific
Canada (2)	Australia (1)
USA (2)	Indonesia (1)
Belgium(1)	
Italy(1)	
Spain(1)	
Switzerland(1)	

7. Address needs of migrants/immigrants/refugees: Migration was highlighted in a number of responses from wealthier receiving countries.

There were 8 responses from Europe. From Switzerland, a respondent urges that we “recognize that immigration is the problem of our time”. Governments should provide “living conditions that enable the human development of all people”. From Canada, the respondent said, “governments should promote migration policies that help keep families together”.

Two responses from Asia and the Pacific region affirmed that fair policies need to be in place for the protection of migrant workers in both receiving and sending countries. The international community should adopt policies that will eliminate human rights abuses of migrants and refugees.

8. Increase efforts to address societal divisions (caste, race, religion, etc.) and human trafficking: Eight respondents called attention to the ongoing need to combat discrimination.

Table 10: Number of responses from the regions relating to discrimination

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific
Zambia (1)	Spain (1)	Argentina(1)	Australia (2)
	USA (2)	Columbia(1)	India (2)

One response in the African region noted the need to have policies to eliminate discrimination. Three responses were from Europe. Those from the USA recommended continuing efforts to eliminate discrimination, including racial discrimination.

Two responses from Latin America and the Caribbean region mentioned human trafficking as an important obstacle to achievement of social integration. According to a policy suggestion from Argentina “Latin America is a continent which is propitious for the smuggling of either people or organs, and for prostitution. There are a great number of missing people. The fight against human trafficking must continue”.

Four responses were from Asia and the Pacific region. One respondent from India noted, “all divisions based on caste, creed, religion, gender, language must be done away with in all spheres of society so as to effectively execute the policies. It is this divide which rips society and deters the implementation of any policy.”

9. Promote Aid effectiveness to strengthen governance and improve development performance:

One region identified the need for aid effective policies.

Table 11: Number of responses from the region relating to Aid effectiveness

Latin America and the Caribbean
Brazil (1)
Costa Rica(1)
El Salvador (1)
Guatemala (1)
Jamaica (1)
Mexico (1)
Paraguay (1)
Panama (1)
Peru (1)

Nine responses from Latin America and the Caribbean region referred to the need for policies that tackle efficiency problems and include monitoring throughout the execution of social projects. Policy recommendations included implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action; establishing control and follow up mechanisms to support mutual accountability and enhancing public financial management; promoting efficiency and avoiding bureaucracy for grants and aid; and setting up a Civic Commission to monitor the application of policies and regulations.

10. Address the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Respondents from two regions suggested special focus on those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Table 12: Number of responses from the regions relating to HIV/AIDS

Africa	Asia-Pacific
Burundi (1)	India (1)
Congo (1)	
Congo- Brazzaville (1)	
South Africa (2)	

Five responses in the African region indicated the importance of caring for HIV/AIDS patients and providing

education in the prevention of spreading the disease with particular concern for veterans and women, especially rural women. In the Asia-Pacific Region, one response from India suggested that people living with HIV/AIDS should have access to free testing and treatment in addition to ensuring social protection for them.

11. Additional Suggestions: Across 5 regions, respondents brought attention to a number of important related issues to address various aspects.

Table 13: Number of responses from the regions relating to additional suggestions

Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia-Pacific	Western Asia
Burundi (1)	USA (6)	Argentina(1)	Bangladesh(1)	Lebanon(1)
	Switzerland (1)	El Salvador(1)	Indonesia (1)	
		Jamaica(1)	Pakistan (1)	
		Columbia (1)		

A voice from Burundi made the following suggestions for the reintegration of soldiers with specific mention of veterans, child soldiers and women soldiers: develop income-generating training in areas like welding, brick making, etc.; create micro-finance programs; reinforce strategies to stop the illegal selling of arms and provide special recourse to women soldiers who have been subjected to violence during conflict.

From Europe region, 7 respondents made additional suggestions. Among these were; to create more jobs for the unemployed, to address the need for health insurance, and to ensure that rich countries avoid businesses that create new forms of poverty in developing countries. Two respondents specifically recommended emphasis on human rights. One, from the US, called attention to the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/82⁹ and urged promotion of human rights learning. Another, from France, suggested a human rights-based approach to poverty eradication and noted the importance of the Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights¹⁰.

Other themes brought to attention from Latin America and the Caribbean region were the impact of climate change on poverty eradication, debt relief in poor countries, and microfinance as a source of employment and development. In this region, it appeared to some that social integration and policy coherence can only be achieved once the institutional structures allow the efficient allocation of resources and the integral participation of all sectors of the society.

One respondent from the Asia-Pacific region suggested the need to address the issue of climate change. Other

suggestions emphasized the fact that the human rights approach is necessary to promote social integration.

From the Western Asia region, one respondent from Lebanon urged governments to collaborate more effectively with private sector organizations.

III. Conclusion

The results of the survey *Promoting Social Integration: Voices from the Grassroots* show that civil society welcomed the adoption of the *Resolution on Promoting Social Integration* and is ready to collaborate in monitoring its full implementation. The importance of social integration at all levels is reflected in the awareness of existing programmes in most countries and in the recommendations for future progress. This is especially significant given that the Resolution was only adopted by the UN in 2010 and many countries will have to overcome many obstacles in order to promulgate and implement it.

As we said in the introduction, social exclusion and discrimination are both major causes and consequences of poverty. Once again, we reiterate our hope that this report will be used as an advocacy tool by all stakeholders as we engage in the processes of the forthcoming two-year cycle of the Commission for Social Development¹¹ on its priority theme *Poverty Eradication*.

N.B.

The follow-up survey on the Resolution adopted by the 48th Session of the Commission for Social Development was conducted to gain insights from people working directly in the field on issues raised in the Resolution. Please note that the survey was not conducted as a scientific research project; sampling methodology was not used and therefore the results cannot be generalized to civil society groups universally. The methods used to distribute the survey proved effective in generating responses from civil society organizations from all regions of the world. Many of the responses reflect the views and experiences of those at the grassroots. Their suggestions provide additional data to inform and enhance national and global policy on social integration and poverty eradication.

Notes

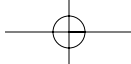
1. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2010/res%202010-12.pdf>
2. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/index.html/>
3. <http://ngosocdev.wordpress.com/>
4. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
5. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/15session/A.HRC.15.1_en.pdf
6. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011.html> (for more information on the Commission for Social Development)
7. CRAS: Center for Social Assistance Referrals
8. From the title of a book by Paul Collier, *THE BOTTOM BILLION: WHY THE POOREST COUNTRIES ARE FAILING AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT*, Oxford University Press, 2007.
9. <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/466/75/PDF/N0946675.pdf?OpenElement>
10. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/15session/A.HRC.15.41.pdf>
11. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011.html>



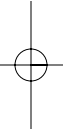
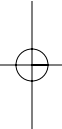
UN Photo-Milton Grant

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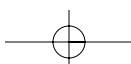
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Questions or comments on this report should be directed to:
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Promoting Social Integration:

Voices from the
Grassroots



NGO Committee for Social Development