



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012

New York, 2-27 July 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Hydroaid, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2012/100.

Statement

Initially complex issues in addressing the problem of poverty and promoting equitable social and economic development are now becoming increasingly hard challenges for the global community owing to unprecedented population growth, massive environmental degradation and political instability. The main problems in ensuring the well-being of the population in developing countries must be sought in the weak administration, the poor resource management and the lack of means and know-how. Furthermore, the needed facilities and works require great investments and financial support from the developed countries. We believe this support has often been granted without the certainty that the results would be effective in the longer term and directed to the goals envisioned, thus cancelling the desired benefits.

In the past 10 years, Hydroaid has been operating to create sustainable development and decent life conditions in the belief that efforts have better outcomes when they are aimed at the creation of solid and long-lasting effects. Our mission consists in transferring technical abilities and knowledge because we believe it is fundamental to establish a loop of actions for development to ensure stability and real improvements: by providing education and vocational training, we meet the developing countries' need for capacity-building, thus paving the way for new jobs and opportunities. These are intended to lead the beneficiary subjects to independent and self-sustaining systems that continuously strive to improve their conditions by seeking and promoting more productive capacity. In this regard, environment should be considered as an opportunity too, particularly if thinking of strategic resources such as water, which is both an instrument to sustain economic growth and a human right. Our mission field, water resource management, offers a large variety of employment opportunities in the complex drinking water procurement process, which includes collection, treatment, transport and distribution. We have observed more opportunities, therefore a higher employment rate always corresponds to more social security and civil rights that are the basis for economic growth, equality and welfare.

We believe this is a winning strategy to eradicate poverty, but the success of this process depends greatly on the availability of local governments to work together with donor countries and organizations for long-term programmes and on the involvement of all the significant actors, including non-governmental organizations, private individuals and businesses, whose contribution is an asset for implementing poverty reduction policies and achieving other Millennium Development Goals. Working partnerships with a broad range of actors can result in positive synergies and in our opinion they should be encouraged in order to support the development loop and to ensure the necessary consensus for programmes to be long-lasting, cost-effective and truly helpful. For this reason, Hydroaid promotes a method of cooperation based upon dialogue and participation.

Similar approaches and commitment attitudes will certainly lead to the eradication of poverty and enhance human values.