



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013

Geneva, 1-26 July 2013

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.



Statement

Integrated approach for development

The innovations of science and technology are driving the global society through major changes at a rapid pace and, despite their unquestionable benefits in terms of social and economic progress, difficulties at achieving equitable and sustainable development are still pervasive. In the follow up of Rio+20 and the approaching of the Millennium Development Goals deadline in 2015, it is important for all those concerned with the fair distribution of wealth and rights to have their say in the shaping of the world of tomorrow. For this purpose and thanks to the contribution of our 1,000-member network spread over 70 countries, we have identified four key issues and cooperation strategies to address them:

- **Information:** worldwide communication systems coverage does not always correspond to ease of access and knowledge. An essential basis for ensuring education and growth is to provide tools for critical analysis and awareness-raising integrated in the cooperation activities
- **Capacity-building:** education and vocational training are fundamental for reaching self-sufficiency and initiating positive development loops, with particular regard to responsible natural resources management, which is a vital skill in consideration of the current climate change and environmental degradation processes
- **Flexibility:** fast changes and innovations represent a challenge on multiple levels. On the one hand, they require the availability of adapting and reacting equally fast in order to answer appropriately to new needs and conditions, an ability that can be best developed through dialogue and sharing. On the other hand, they are a source of new opportunities that can mitigate the unemployment rate and help to reduce poverty
- **Integrated approach:** innovation-driven development is possible when technological techniques are combined with an appropriate deployment of all other resources as a guarantee of sustainable outcomes. In the past years, for example, Hydroaid has carried out a technical training programme based on an ensemble of distance learning and practical traineeships with excellent results in terms of professional advancements reported by the participants, while establishing long lasting collaborations and a solid cooperation network

Participation in its various aspects, including responsible access to information, professional empowerment, opportunity-seizing promptness, creation of interaction networks, is therefore the heart of our idea of sustainable development, which we intend to promote at this year's high-level segment in response to the challenges of the modernization trends. In the perspective of the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we believe that all actions in favour of enhancing culture and eco-awareness will play a strategic role and will be most efficacious if supported by a commitment to participation and a smart employment of the potential of innovations.