

**NGO/Civil Society Recommendations to the High Level Segment of ECOSOC  
2004 on the theme of  
“Resource Mobilization and Enabling Environment for Poverty Eradication in  
the Context of the Implementation of the Program of Action for the Least  
Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010.”**

**I. *Fostering a people-centered policy framework***

- ? ? Increase civil society organizations’ efforts to establish or expand participatory decision-making processes and policies. A necessary component of this action is long-term capacity building in education and skills training. Capacity building activities at the grass-roots level will improve poor people’s ability to participate effectively in the political process and empower them to become full stakeholders in their own development;
- ? ? Promote cross-sector partnerships between public, private and civil society organizations that aim toward a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction and sustainable development in line with Millennium Development Goal 8;
- ? ? Promote demilitarisation and reallocation of budget resources to human development and establish and reinforce a culture of peace through mandatory peace education in school curricula
- ? ? Maintain awareness of the social and cultural dimensions of LDCs – take the local context of each country into account when developing policies and programmes;

**II. *Good governance at the national and international levels***

- ? ? Increase transparency and accountability at all levels of government – international, national and local;
- ? ? Promote a decentralized decision-making process that is inclusive of marginalized groups;
- ? ? Adopt a rights-based approach to development, whereby basic needs such as water, food, education, health and shelter are considered public rights – ensure that water, health, sanitation and electrical services are affordable to all citizens;
- ? ? Develop broad-based support from within and outside the LDCs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in these countries. The committed support of NGOs and civil society organizations, both nationally and internationally, will be a crucial factor toward achieving the MDGs in the LDCs.

**III. *Building human and institutional capacities***

- ? ? Ensure the participation of women in decision-making processes that affect their lives and the development of the country through empowerment of women and gender equality as encouraged by Millennium Development Goal 3;
- ? ? Ensure education for all, particularly at the primary level. Enhance inclusion of the girl child in education. Improve access to the formal labour market by developing job-oriented training;

- ?? Seek greater commitment from developed countries on contributing resources, on an emergency basis, to control the further spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- ?? Facilitate the establishment and development of information and communication technology in LDCs to enable poor people to participate in international markets;
- ?? Focus particular attention on vulnerable groups: elderly, disabled and families with special needs and encourage stakeholders to take people with disabilities into account when reaching international agreements;

**IV. *Building production capacities to make globalization work for LDCs***

- ?? Increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to LDCs such that all development partner governments reach the ODA target of 0.7% of GDP. Current trends in allocation of ODA fall short of what is needed to meet the goals of the Brussels Plan of Action (BPOA);
- ?? Implement land reforms to provide poor people access to land, including setting aside land for rural cooperatives. Address women's claims to land rights as individuals – not only via a male family member;
- ?? Promote micro enterprise that supports local expertise. Promote adaptation of interest rates for small-scale businesses;

**V. *Enhancing the role of trade in development***

- ?? Enhance appropriate transportation systems so that small-scale farmers can reduce the cost of accessing markets;
- ?? Promote removal of trade barriers to goods from LDCs and removal of agricultural subsidies to farmers in developed countries;
- ?? Encourage corporate responsibility on the part of multinational companies that invest in developing countries;

**VI. *Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment***

- ?? Raise provision of clean water, improved water management and sanitation to high priority status;
- ?? Encourage environmental protection according to sustainable development principles, through enforcement of national and international legislation and with stronger implementation measures and fines
- ?? Adopt legislation containing a 'polluter pays' clause for extracting a country's natural resources and mineral wealth;
- ?? Support activities that help LDCs to adapt to climate change because LDCs will suffer the most from its impacts;

**VII. *Mobilizing financial resources***

- ?? Encourage cancellation of LDCs' external debt. Without debt cancellation the LDCs will not develop sufficiently to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Most of the income the LDCs generate is used to service debt. Following debt cancellation, income formerly devoted to debt service may be redirected to meeting health, education and basic needs of the poorest citizens;

- ?? Encourage foreign direct investment that facilitates the development of infrastructure that is sustainable in developing countries.
- ?? The private sector is important for encouraging people to work their way out of poverty. So multinational companies should take corporate responsibility for the countries in which they invest.