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Statement submitted by World for World Organization, 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

We need concrete action to make economic growth more pro-poor

World for World Organization highlighted the importance of the catalytic role that the annual ministerial review is playing as a key function of the Economic and Social Council to enable effective action towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In witnessing the ongoing global economic crisis, challenges of population growth, price volatility, food insecurity and climate change, the need for more effective public actions to address real constraints and opportunities faced by poor women and men should be highlighted.

World for World Organization calls on the 2012 annual ministerial review to consider an urgent need to develop a framework for enabling job-intensive growth in order to reduce inequality and vulnerability, alleviate poverty and hunger, and tackle unemployment and vulnerable employment, especially among youth. This should be the foundation for accelerating progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and paving the way for the development agenda beyond 2015.

The lessons learned in the field directly concern poor people and sustained economic growth, for which poor women and men act as both agents and beneficiaries. Their economic growth is essential for reducing poverty. Recurring crises expose the vulnerability of poor individuals and families as well as their jobs and livelihoods. Employment and social protection are two critical vehicles to achieve pro-poor growth and the Millennium Development Goals. However, they do not receive enough attention and concrete action by public policymaking; in this context, productive employment and decent work are the main ways for them to get out of poverty.

It is important to act now to actualize a framework that makes this development possible. Reducing inequality, addressing vulnerability, ensuring food and energy security, providing social protection, alleviating poverty and hunger, fighting youth unemployment and creating green jobs are the urgent tasks on our agenda. Only three years are left to 2015; the Millennium Development Goals serve as benchmarks that guide our actions and against which our progress is being measured. But it is important to look beyond 2015.

Recommended actions

- Promote entrepreneurship, especially among young people, and improve working conditions by involving the relevant social partners in dialogue
- Encourage relevant global and regional institutions to support making decent work and full employment an important goal of internationally and regionally coordinated macroeconomic policies
- Strengthen labour institutions to ensure more inclusive and fairer labour markets that uphold international labour standards and rights at work
- Promote greener growth and green jobs as a means to achieve inclusive, sustained and balanced growth, and sustainable development

- Create and promote decent job opportunities for youth, in particular in dynamic sectors, such as green jobs and E-commerce as well as the undeveloped agriculture sector
 - Reduce gender barriers and promote women's participation in labour markets
 - Promote social dialogue among national Governments, employers' and workers' organizations, youth and women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society stakeholders to effectively tackle persistently high unemployment
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