

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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AG/RES. 2878 (XLV-O/15)

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 16, 2015)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the Social Charter of the Americas was adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), "Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region";

BEARING IN MIND that resolutions AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2775 (XLIII-O/13), and AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14) instructed the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to conclude negotiations on a draft Plan of Action of the Social Charter, conceived for the attainment of specific, feasible goals, on the basis of the preambular and operative sections of the Social Charter and mindful of the mandates in force with respect to its structure;

RESOLVES:

To adopt the following:

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

The purpose of this Plan of Action is to set goals and strategic lines of action in the areas of labor, social protection, health, food and nutrition, education, housing and basic public services, and culture, in order to help to achieve the principles, purposes, and priorities contained in the Social Charter of the Americas, according to the reality of each member state.

This Plan of Action reflects the member states' determination and commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger and urgently address the serious problems of social exclusion and inequality at all levels to achieve equity, inclusion, and social justice, while recognizing that member states experience varying degrees of progress with respect to the areas proposed.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

1. Labor

Objective: Improve the quality of existing employment and create greater opportunities for productive employment in conditions of equality, dignity, safety, and wellbeing.

Strategic lines of action:

1.1 Strengthen labor institutions in order to ensure effective observance of fundamental principles and rights at work in conditions of equality and dignity.

1.2 Promote employment generation and access to decent, dignified, and productive employment, among others, by fostering greater coherence between educational, economic and labor policies, the establishment of new enterprises, and gradual formalization of the informal economy.

1.3 Advance opportunities to access the labor market and workers' skills, with particular emphasis on groups that face the most significant challenges in the labor market.

1.4 Strengthen skills certification programs to foster incorporation into the labor market and improve employment opportunities.

1.5 Promote and implement policies to achieve equality in the labor market for men and women.

2. Social Protection

Objective: Create or strengthen comprehensive social protection systems based on respect for human rights and on the principles of universality, sustainability, equality, inclusion, shared responsibility, solidarity and equity that include the generation of opportunities needed for families and individuals in vulnerable circumstances to enhance their well-being and quality of life.

Strategic lines of action:

2.1. Encourage the implementation of social protection floors commensurate with the situation in each country, promoting solid, comprehensive, and sustainable social protection systems.

2.2. Seek to organize the social protection systems in such a way as to consider different approaches and schemes in an effort to ensure comprehensive coverage and an equitable distribution of benefits, taking national circumstances into account.

2.3. Promote a comprehensive social protection approach that addresses the different dimensions and manifestations of poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion and reduces inequalities through a wide range of measures and an intergenerational and life-cycle perspective.

2.4. Encourage social protection programs aimed at strengthening all families, recognizing that they are at the heart of social development policies and programs.

2.5. Promote social protection systems that enhance the well-being and development of individuals and families, invest in education and training, and contribute to social and economic development.

2.6. Evaluate options for recognizing nominal contributions to social security and pension entitlements by migrant workers, in accordance with domestic legislation.

3. Health

Objective: To progress toward universal access to health care and universal coverage of comprehensive and quality health care, with equity, accompanied by social protection models in health care for populations in situations of vulnerability.

Strategic lines of action:

3.1 Strengthen the quality and equity of health care systems and seek to ensure their universal coverage through primary care, preventive and promotion actions, and social protection mechanisms.

3.2 Improve the availability of and access to quality health care services in accordance with the principles promoted by the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017: human rights, universality, comprehensiveness, accessibility and inclusion, Pan American solidarity, equity in health, and social participation.

3.3 Incorporate promotion and protection of health in intersectoral policies, in order to address the social determinants of health of our peoples, where appropriate, in a bid to reduce inequalities, construct appropriate physical and social environments, and facilitate healthier behavior.

3.4 Reduce the preventable and avoidable burden of morbidity, mortality, and disability due to non-communicable diseases.

3.5 Reduce the impact of communicable diseases on the health of the population through comprehensive multisectoral measures, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected and emerging diseases.

3.6 Reduce maternal and child mortality, in particular neonatal mortality.

3.7 Prepare for and take, where appropriate, intersectoral measures to respond to disasters, pandemics, and diseases that may impact national, regional, and global health security.

3.8 Strive to guarantee that comprehensive health care is available to everyone at every stage of their lives, ensuring that they do not suffer financial difficulties.

4. Food and Nutrition

Objective: To promote food and nutrition security in the region, with the active participation of individuals, communities, and civil society in general.

Strategic lines of action:

4.1 Take action toward the eradication of malnutrition and hunger, especially maternal, newborn, and infant malnutrition.

4.2 Promote prevention policies on all forms of malnutrition, encourage healthy lifestyles, and foster quality nutrition education that includes healthy eating habits, nutrition, and hygiene.

4.3 Promote policies and programs to facilitate the availability of and physical, social, and affordable access to suitable, healthy, and nutritional food for all persons.

4.4 Support the implementation of inclusive policies and programs to advance sustainable food systems, giving particular attention to the eradication of hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

4.5 Promote disaster-risk management, giving priority to farming and food security and to responding effectively to threats and emergencies, with particular attention to populations in vulnerable circumstances.

5. Education

Objective: To guarantee the right to education without discrimination, promote access to quality education at all levels and of all forms, and ensure equitable and universal access to primary and secondary education.

Strategic lines of action:

5.1 Increase coverage of and access to high-quality early childhood education, with special attention to those who live in situations of poverty or vulnerability.

5.2 Enhance comprehensive early childhood education programs with parental and community participation.

5.3 Strengthen policies and measures for child and adolescent access to, retention in, and graduation from the education system.

5.4 Pay more attention to the needs of students whose native language is not the primary language of instruction, including the provision of native-language educational materials and services where appropriate.

5.5 Continue and strengthen programs and activities for eradicating illiteracy and reducing functional illiteracy, taking into account the cultural and linguistic reality of the population.

5.6 Promote the development of and/or strengthen education programs for social and academic inclusion for persons with special needs.

5.7 Promote the development of and/or strengthen education programs for persons deprived of liberty with a view to their rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

5.8 Improve the processes of selection, preparation, training and ongoing professional development for teachers; and improve performance incentives, working conditions, and evaluation in order to strengthen the teaching profession.

5.9 Promote greater and equal access to various forms of postsecondary and technical education and professional training, with particular attention to students from vulnerable groups.

5.10 Promote inclusive, quality higher education in order to fully prepare students for improved entry to the labor market.

5.11 Encourage research and innovation in education systems in order to promote their linkage to productive sectors, as well as scientific and technological development.

5.12 Foster and strengthen linkages, cooperation, and exchanges among national, regional, and hemispheric educational institutions.

5.13 Promote permanent non-formal education opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and wisdom in society.

5.14 Foster and strengthen the certification and improvement of skills.

6. Housing and Basic Public Services

Objective: To provide more and better housing options, especially for vulnerable and lower-income populations, and ensure fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to basic public services.

Strategic lines of action:

6.1 Promote the availability of basic public services, in order to ensure access to these services for those who lack them or are underserved. In particular, encourage efforts to extend the coverage and quality of safe drinking water, sanitation, storm water management, solid waste management, and energy services, with an emphasis on rural areas.

6.2 Promote the social inclusion of persons in situations of poverty and excluded groups through appropriate urban and rural land management schemes.

6.3 Encourage the promotion of financing mechanisms, including mortgages and home micro-financing for the building, acquisition, or expansion of housing, and promote programs that allow improved access to land and to affordable housing.

6.4 Ensure the social and environmental functions of the city, promoting balance with its economic, cultural, and political functions to guarantee the population full enjoyment of the city as their public space.

6.5 Encourage orderly and integrated urban growth with urban equality and social integration.

6.6 Coordinate, through the state, monitoring, follow-up, and oversight strategies for investments and goals to expand coverage, at local and regional levels, to guarantee the implementation of planning principles and transparency in the formulation, implementation, and execution of policies, programs, and projects.

6.7 Promote access to a safe and healthy environment, with special attention to fostering measures for adaption to climate change and integrated disaster risk management at sites where public housing is located.

6.8 Promote the construction of housing and urban developments that include public spaces for gatherings and recreation to improve the quality of family and community relationships.

7. Culture

Objective: Ensure cultural development with the inclusion and participation of all sectors of society, respecting diversity of cultures and cultural expressions, and encouraging mutual respect and knowledge.

Strategic lines of action:

7.1 Strengthen cultural and creative industries, with attention to their different levels of consolidation, and to the community dimension they involve.

7.2 Increase access to cultural goods and services, in particular, for members of vulnerable groups.

7.3 Create conditions and encourage cultural creative processes that both facilitate creative and artistic expression in all its forms, languages, and expressions, for individuals as well as social groups, and which encourage investigation and imagination in an atmosphere of tolerance and of freedom of thought, expression, and information.

7.4 Include the issue of culture on governments' economic and planning agendas, particularly with regard to cultural and creative industries, cultural heritage, and respect for cultural diversity.

7.5 Preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

7.6 Combat looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

7.7 Consider the role of culture and raise the visibility of its contributions in inclusive economic development and the relationship between cultural and sustainable development policies.

7.8 Recover, preserve, value, promote, and strengthen the various collective memories, democratize their access and dissemination, and facilitate intercultural dialogue.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE PLAN OF ACTION

Duration

This Plan of Action will be valid for five years from the time of its adoption. At the end of that period, the General Assembly may order a review and update of the Plan of Action within the terms of the purposes and principles adopted in the Social Charter of the Americas.

Implementation

The member states will be responsible for the implementation of the Plan of Action, based on their domestic laws, national realities, strategies, plans, and available resources. In this regard, member states may be supported by existing mechanisms of the OAS and other organizations of the Inter-American system and, where appropriate, will foster synergies with other regional organizations – taking into account their mandates, areas of expertise and available resources – in order to build or strengthen their human and institutional capacities. Priority should be given to partnership within the strategic lines of this Plan of Action and to initiatives that promote sharing of information and best practices among Member States.

Follow-up

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the OAS will include annually on the agenda of one of its regular meetings a dialogue for the exchange of information on progress, experiences, and lessons learned in implementing this Plan of Action. The information and recommendations presented at such meetings will be included in the regular reports of CIDI and referred to the General Assembly for its attention.