



1 This report, produced by the Commission for Social Development under ECOSOC for
2 the 17th session of the American Model United Nations International conference will
3 address the main issues and concerns surrounding the implementation of the social
4 objectives of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the further
5 promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and
6 protection of their human rights.

**Further Promotion of Equalization of Opportunities By, For and With Persons
With Disabilities and Protection of Their Human Rights**

7 Section 1: Definition and Corresponding Legislation for Rights of Persons with
8 Disabilities

9
10 Reaffirming the current definitions specified by the World Health Organization in the
11 World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons:

12
13 Impairment: any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical
14 structure or function.

15
16 Disability: any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an
17 activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for human beings.

18
19 Handicap: a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or
20 disability, that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal depending on age,
21 sex, social and cultural factors for that individual.

22
23 The UN acknowledges the sovereignty of states for laws within their borders, but urges
24 member states to increase the rights of persons with disabilities. This report recognizes
25 considerable limitations of the current definition that have excluded certain disabilities.
26 In particular, physiological and anatomical structure function disabilities are often
27 ignored, but none-the-less require recognition. Therefore, the commission calls upon the
28 committee on the Right of Disabled persons to consider revising the definition of
29 disability

30
31 The UN recognizes that change cannot happen on solely an international level. The rights
32 of individuals come directly from those granted by the government of their state. Along
33 with increasing aid given to states to provide for equality for persons with disabilities, the
34 UN encourages states to change any national legislation that discriminates against persons
35 with disabilities, and that the addition of legislation increasing rights and opportunities
36 for persons with disabilities should be developed to achieve this commission's goals.

37
38 In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this body
39 urges the United Nations to expeditiously enact and enable the Committee on the Rights

40 of Persons with Disabilities called for in article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of
41 Persons with Disabilities. Member States are also urged to provide national
42 implementation and monitoring mechanisms as cited in article 33 of the Convention on
43 the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We strongly urge member states to expeditiously
44 enact said programs. Full transparency, cooperation and communication between
45 member states regarding policies and procedures are desired.

46
47 As part of such, the UN further urges the equal standards for persons with disabilities in
48 private and public sectors, including but not limited to: employment practices, education,
49 healthcare, housing and transportation, cultural and social life, social and health services,
50 athletics and recreational facilities be made accessible to all.

51 52 Section 2: Social and Legal Applications Regarding Disability

53
54 It is alarming that persons with disabilities are not mentioned in the Millennium
55 Development Goals. This document being presented addresses disabilities within the
56 rubric set forth in the Ad Hoc Committee on Convention on Persons with Disabilities.
57 This rubric is defined by prevention, rehabilitation, treatment and integration.

58
59 This body encourages member states to adopt or enforce safer working environments and
60 conditions. We would also like to urge member states and industries to work with the
61 International Labor Organization (ILO) to further promote work place safety. Awareness
62 campaigns including the labeling of equipment and instructions for proper usage need to
63 be emphasized.

64
65 Noting the correlation between poverty and persons with disabilities, the eradication of
66 poverty would show an immediate decrease in the amount of preventable disabilities.
67 Factors such as land mines, toxic waste, war residue, and unspent munitions, contribute
68 directly to disabilities. We call upon the UN to explore the possibility of instituting a
69 body to assist member states who wish to dispose of such factors

70
71 Recognizing the success of programs such as the Oil For Doctors program, we urge
72 nations to implement innovative programs which are outside the normal economic
73 framework, in order to better meet resource demands.

74
75 The Council recognizes the harmful consequences of punitive measures of the
76 international community, which include but not limited to sanctions that hinder a
77 government's ability to address the rights of persons with disabilities

78
79 This body thus recommends the reservation of sanctions and its potential negative
80 consequences for the civil population and consider ways to avoid unnecessary suffering
81 of vulnerable portions of the population such as people with disabilities

82
83 The UN should also support rehabilitation programs for those with disabilities in society
84 in order to increase independence among those persons. Part of this includes education
85 programs for how to handle and cope with disabilities.

86

87 Noting that disabilities are not only physical but also mental and sensory, it is important
88 for programs to treat all aspects of the disabled person. Clinics and Recreation Centers
89 allow persons with disabilities to participate and establish their identities and social
90 networks.

91
92 Special attention to women and children with disabilities should be a major focus of
93 future committees and conferences, due to alarming proportion of women and children
94 living with disabilities.

95
96 This body recognizes that certain member states have the will to implement programs
97 addressing disabilities, however they lack the necessary resources.

98 99 Section 3: Non-governmental Organizations

100
101 Where the United Nations is unable to increase the rights of persons with disabilities, or
102 nations are unable to take the necessary steps, but are willing to, this body suggests
103 recognition of non-governmental organizations as being key to the protection of the rights
104 of people with disabilities. Furthermore, we wish to integrate these non-governmental
105 organizations into our body as being essential, just as those with disabilities need to be
106 integrated into common society. While NGOs are not voting or signed bodies of the
107 United Nations, with the change of international society, they can take actions that are
108 often rejected by states.

109
110 Bodies included for NGOs that the UN wishes to recognize include: Handicap
111 International, World Vision UK, Africa Deaf Union, Christoffel Blinden Mission,
112 Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, Inclusion International, World Blind
113 Union, and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health. All
114 of these bodies already work within the World Bank as part of the task force for GPDD
115 (Global Partnership for Disability and Development) and their greater inclusion in our
116 efforts would only increase the likelihood of success in all of our member states.

117 118 Section 4: Current Implementations by Individual Countries

119
120 In recognition of the important role of donor aid in this process, Germany and Italy are
121 considering to increase the funding provided to organizations aiding persons with
122 disabilities. In this effort, Italy hosted a conference between 600 organizations,
123 corporations, and international banks to encourage the increased development for
124 infrastructure and rights for persons with disabilities in poverty.

125
126 Czech Republic is enacting EU anti-torture laws and applying them to how disabled
127 people are being treated. In collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates are training people
128 with disabilities in the IT sector to give them real world experience in the work place.

129
130 Germany initiated EQUAL Community Initiative program in 2001-2006, funded by
131 European Social Fund, and provided 514.5 million Euros to develop new ways of
132 recognizing discrimination and inequality and the fill of employment. Twenty-two
133 percent of the fund, 113 million Euros is devoted to the Adaptability component of the

134 program, which is designed to develop innovative teaching and learning for people with
135 Disabilities.

136

137 Furthermore, Japan joins the referenced countries in the recognition of the need to
138 continue work and aid to international efforts to ameliorate the situation of people with
139 disabilities. A long time leader in this effort, thirty years ago began its large scale efforts
140 with the Law for Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities, making it
141 mandatory for companies to ensure certain percentage of disabled people in their
142 workforce. This quota system bans job-related discrimination against the disabled. Japan
143 allows 1.8 percent of the positions at all private-sector companies to employ 56 or more
144 people with disabilities. For national and municipal government, as well as the
145 government-affiliated organizations, the quota is 2.1 percent. These legal measures are
146 continuously complemented with education to raise public awareness and combat harmful
147 stereotypes. Japan looks forward to cooperating with the international community.

148

149 Turkey has made impressive strides in promoting greater and equal access to
150 rehabilitation. Furthermore, Turkey, in agreement with this body, recognizes the
151 importance to address the stereotypes underlying the discrimination of persons with
152 disabilities, and has actively combated the stigmas concerning people with disabilities.

153

154 Indonesia has adopted laws No. 4/1997 on persons with disabilities and adopted its
155 National Plan of Action in 2003. The Plan of Action reiterates the Government's
156 commitment to the rights-based approach to the persons with disabilities. Significant
157 steps have been taken in this respect. For instance, persons with disabilities have been
158 provided with greater access to exercise their democratic right to vote.

159

160 An example of integration of disabled people into our society is the Handicap
161 International program in Cote d'Ivoire which has worked to train people with disabilities
162 to give them job skills needed to be integrated in the society and to be able to provide for
163 themselves. This program is also implemented in Guinea-Bissau.

164

165 Venezuela has used the trading of goods such as oil in exchange for doctors and services
166 that can assist in alleviating the difficulties of the disabled persons in their country.

167

168 The Government of Bangladesh has enacted the Disability Welfare Act-2001 to protect
169 and promote the rights of the persons with disabilities following the Disability Policy and
170 the international commitments on United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of
171 Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

Implementation of the Social Objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

172 Section 1: Support for Good Governance Techniques under NEPAD

173

174 This commission commends the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and other
175 regional agencies that promote responsible governance, sound economies and corporate
176 and political governance models.

177

178 We commend the success of the past peace-keeping operations conducted by regional
179 organizations. We continue to call for such forces to be utilized in resolving African
180 conflicts and ask that the United Nations (UN) fund these operations when necessary.

181

182 Section 2: Infrastructure

183

184 A. Education

185

186 While we recognize and understand that the implementation for the 2006-2007 biennium
187 of the literacy initiative for empowerment, and teacher training initiative in sub-Saharan
188 Africa will surely help move the continent forward, we need to ensure that these
189 initiatives are adequately funded. We also continue to call for the further implementation
190 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on education in Africa.

191

192 Building on the MDG's educational goals, adult literacy programs should be expanded.
193 Special consideration should be granted to those countries who are emerging from
194 conflict so that their citizens receive at least basic education.

195

196 The issue of brain drain was addressed in 2001 in NEPAD, but there is insufficient
197 information on the frequency and composition of this pattern. It is critical that a
198 proactive approach be utilized.

199

200 It is essential for students to have access to higher education and to ensure that the skills
201 that they acquire remain on the African continent. To achieve this, we encourage funding
202 through international organizations towards higher education, and if necessary, for study
203 abroad. We encourage international organizations to provide incentives to students who
204 remain in Africa

205

206 We recognize the lack of adequate primary education facilities and call for programs for
207 the construction of more of these facilities.

208

209 B. Health Care

210

211 The CSD would like to commend the NGO's and private organizations that have set up
212 distribution points for pharmaceuticals. These points are crucial to ensure that all citizens
213 of Africa have equal access to affordable medicine.

214

215 The high infant mortality rate in Africa is a result of multiple preventable causes,
216 AIDS/HIV, common diseases, and many other preventable factors. To combat this
217 problem, there must be more health care facilities built in Africa. To achieve this goal,
218 there must be more effective communication between organizations that serve health
219 needs.

220

221 There is a shortage of trained health care professionals in Africa. While some countries
222 and NGO's have facilitated the placement of health professionals in Africa, there is still
223 much to be done. We encourage students in health related fields to serve for a period of

224 time in a needed area of their country as a part of their studies.

225

226 C. Agriculture, Food and Water

227

228 The lack of potable water is something that plagues Africa on a constant basis. It is
229 critical that member states, the UN and NGO's help Africans gain the skills to find and
230 purify water for themselves.

231

232 Agriculture in Africa is a vast and often untapped resource. To better utilize the
233 agricultural sector farmers must be taught the skills that will allow them to farm the land
234 with non-mechanical techniques. This need is due to the fact that mechanical implements
235 are often times unavailable in many areas.

236

237 While the African Development Bank (ADB) and many others have put enormous
238 resources into agriculture, clean water, and food, there is still much that can be done. The
239 UN program where purification devices are distributed is a commendable activity, and
240 should be expanded. While this is a temporary measure, it will provide relief until a more
241 permanent solution is found.

242

243 The conservation of fresh water is indispensable for sustainable African development,
244 and more efficient irrigation methods have to be implemented.

245

246 D. Transportation

247

248 In some African countries there needs to be development and integration of transportation
249 systems. To do this, there must be an increase in accessible roads. In addition, the
250 infrastructure for rail, shipping, and air transport should be developed and expanded.
251 This is important to facilitate economic stimulation and passage both between and within
252 countries.

253

254 Section 3: Mobilization of Resources

255

256 In order for Africa to be able to compete in the international market as a bloc instead of as
257 individual nations, the African Union must cooperate with regional organizations to
258 achieve greater economic integration. Africa is a continent with many rich
259 complementary resources, and these resources will prove to be increasingly beneficial
260 when organized. To rectify this situation there must be explicit cooperation between the
261 African Union and other regional bodies on issues of economic integration and
262 development. Regional organizations and the AU must form an official working
263 relationship in order to achieve effective economic integration and partnerships.

264

265 While we recognize that trans-national corporations (TNC) can bring much needed
266 capital and technical expertise, their presence sometimes brings adverse effects, such as
267 diverting resources from African countries, environmental degradation, and dangerous
268 workplace conditions. While the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) can protect
269 the interests of African nations from these effects; the mechanism is still in the
270 developing stages and cannot yet meet this challenge. We therefore call for a voluntary

271 mechanism that unites the United Nations, NGO's, and African nations that will assist the
272 APRM in the reviewing of contractual agreements with trans-national corporations that
273 provide foreign direct investment. We also encourage this voluntary body to produce a
274 report on the success and failures of these respective foreign and domestic contracts.

275
276 This body recognizes the important role that trade plays in eradicating poverty and
277 achieving full employment. The body also recognizes that NEPAD's success hinges on
278 development anchored on Africa's resources. We therefore urge member states to
279 expeditiously work toward the elimination of trade barriers as a means of economic
280 stimulation and foreign direct investment in Africa.

281
282 NEPAD has focused primarily on a top-down development strategy, giving money
283 directly to states to invest in specific programs approved by the committee. While this
284 has had an enormous benefit in increasing education and infrastructure, development of
285 African business is lacking. This body recognizes the importance of regional and
286 domestic business and industry. Furthermore, we laud the significantly higher repayment
287 rates of micro-finance loans as compared to conventional loans. We suggest further
288 development and the use of micro-financing through alternative institutions along with
289 NGOs that focus on this type of development. Such a change would allow the states to
290 not only develop their national needs, but also establish a solid foundation upon which
291 the state can continue to develop. Facilitation of development programs must come from
292 the African Union.

293
294 NEPAD has the main goal of allowing for African solutions to African problems. We
295 therefore encourage AU institutions to facilitate such programs. Many development
296 programs by international organizations and NGOs are in effect in Africa. The CSD
297 recommends that these programs come under the auspices of the African Development
298 Bank.

299
300 The trend of significant increases in official development assistance (ODA) to Africa
301 continued in 2004 and 2005. We request countries already contributing to ODA to
302 continue to increase aid to African nations in order to meet the pledges made previously
303 and work towards a time that these goals can be implemented. Much of the observed
304 increase in assistance continues to take the form of emergency and humanitarian aid, debt
305 relief, and technical assistance. These forms of aid combined with financial assistance
306 are the most beneficial. It is critical that international aid move toward the integration of
307 infrastructure not only within nations but also within the AU.