



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 November 2025

English only

Commission for Social Development

Sixty-Fourth Session

2–11 February 2026

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: “Advancing Social Development and Social
Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive
Policies”**

Statement submitted by Life Project 4 Youth, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

This statement is presented by Life Project 4 Youth at the occasion of the 64th Commission for Social Development under the theme “Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies”.

Around the world, among the working population, 57.7% of individuals work in the informal sector representing millions of adults and young adults without access to social protection, training, or stable income. Despite multiple initiatives, progress remains slow, and the share of youth in informal employment has decreased by only a few percentage points over the past decade.

At Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y), we work daily in the field with excluded young people living in extreme poverty, often without education or access to the formal labor market. We witness firsthand how structural barriers, limited policy implementation, and the absence of coordinated action perpetuate cycles of exclusion.

LP4Y is an international movement of local organizations specializing in innovative solutions for the professional and social integration of excluded youth. Through training and support in building a Life Project Plan, we foster social and economic empowerment, enabling young people to improve not only their own living conditions but also those of their communities.

We have developed a pedagogy focused on social and professional skills, skills that are too often neglected by government programs but are essential for enabling marginalized youth to take part in society and the economy with confidence and dignity. We see how developing these competencies leads not only to employment but also to active citizenship and community resilience.

At LP4Y, we believe every young person deserves a fair chance to build a future with dignity. But despite growing awareness, too many initiatives remain fragmented, with governments, private sectors, and NGOs acting in isolation.

To strengthen our collective impact and advance social justice, LP4Y calls on all members of the Commission for Social Development to:

1. Enhance the sharing of good practices among youth inclusion stakeholders to build on community empowerment and inclusive social justice;
2. Establish exchange platforms for governments, civil society, and private actors to align strategies and optimize the impact of initiatives for young adults;
3. Ensure public policies explicitly target those left behind, including youth in extreme poverty, young workers in the informal sector, and young women facing additional forms of exclusion.

The first key priority is the reinforcement of community empowerment through the sharing of good practices among youth inclusion stakeholders. By empowering young people who have been marginalized due to poverty, discrimination, or lack of education, LP4Y promotes fairness, equal opportunities, and the protection of rights for all members of society.

Each youth we accompany builds an individual “Life Project” that combines personal development, professional training, and entrepreneurial experience. It is built for 3 to 6 months, all along the program, and builds on feedback they receive from mock interviews and sessions

organised with our corporate partners. This process enables them to become self-reliant and active contributors to society, thanks to the cooperation with professionals from the private sector.

Such empowerment embodies inclusive social justice: ensuring that those who have long been excluded are recognized as capable agents of change. By focusing on potential rather than circumstance, LP4Y supports youth in reclaiming their dignity and autonomy, key pillars of sustainable development.

The second key priority is to build coordinated policies through multi-actor collaboration. LP4Y works in partnership with companies, local governments, and civil society in 13 countries, embodying the principle that coordinated, multi-actor approaches are essential to systemic change. Youth trained in LP4Y centers receive hands-on training sessions and hear testimonies from corporate partners, giving them an idea of what to expect in a decent job. It allows them to be aware of their rights and of skills demands for their job search.

Too often, efforts to integrate marginalized youth remain isolated, NGOs act without sufficient policy backing, and governments lack mechanisms to learn from local initiatives. Coordination platforms can help bridge this divide, ensuring that successful field practices inform policy design, and that public policies create enabling environments for inclusive programs.

We encourage the Commission to promote frameworks that facilitate dialogue between governments, private sectors, and social organizations, aligning strategies toward shared goals of youth inclusion and employability. Coherence between actors will allow for more resilient and efficient outcomes.

The third key priority is to strengthen equitable policies by reaching those left behind. LP4Y's actions specifically target youth in extreme poverty, sometimes geographically excluded, those working in the informal sector, and young women who face compounded inequalities. By focusing on the most vulnerable, LP4Y ensures that development is not only inclusive but also equitable, directly addressing disparities that hinder social justice.

Equitable policies must go beyond general employment initiatives. They should actively reduce barriers to education, digital access, and financial inclusion, while recognizing the diverse realities of youth in different social and cultural contexts. Governments must ensure that those furthest behind are prioritized, not as passive recipients of aid but as key stakeholders in shaping solutions.

The social and professional integration of marginalized youth is both a moral imperative and a strategic investment for sustainable development and social justice. Experience from the field shows that when young people are given the opportunity to learn, lead, and innovate, they transform not only their own lives but also their communities. Together, we can build societies that truly leave no one behind, where every young person has the opportunity to realize their potential and contribute to a just and sustainable future.

Endorsed by the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University.
