

The 10th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

Implementation of the mandate and programme of work –

Focused thematic discussion and interactive dialogue

Palais des Nations, Room XXI, Geneva

Engaging the Unengaged: Building inclusive development through a meaningful civil society participation

Tuesday 29 October 2024, 10h30 to 12h30

Concept Note

Presented by Liliana Valiña

Introduction

The Declaration on the Right to Development emphasizes the importance of popular participation in all spheres, recognizing that development policies should aim to improve the well-being of the entire population. This requires active, free, and meaningful participation in development processes and the equitable distribution of benefits.

The Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD) has consistently highlighted the pivotal role of civil society in promoting inclusive and sustainable development as a keyway to realize the right to development without leaving no one behind.

To ensure that the Pact for the Future delivers on its promise of a more inclusive and equitable world, it is essential to prioritize equal opportunities for meaningful participation by diverse groups, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and individuals from different regions, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Their unique perspectives and experiences are invaluable in shaping policies that address complex challenges and build a sustainable future for all.

Building this future requires urgently implementing reforms to revitalize international and regional cooperation, grounded in new principles and frameworks that prioritize inclusive and equitable partnerships and exchanges, ensuring that people and groups from the global South and less developed countries are equally represented in international discussions and decision-making.

Purpose

This panel discussion aims to:

1. Identify and discuss the challenges faced by marginalized and discriminated groups in engaging with development processes.
2. Explore innovative strategies for fostering inclusive and meaningful civil society participation.
3. Examine the role of Governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations in promoting inclusive development.
4. Develop recommendations for enhancing a diverse civil society's participation in future development initiatives.

Guiding questions

1. What are the primary barriers to civil society participation in development processes, particularly for marginalized and discriminated groups, and how can we overcome these challenges to create more inclusive and equitable spaces for engagement?
2. How can we ensure that the voices of marginalized and underrepresented groups are effectively heard and considered in decision-making processes, and what mechanisms can be implemented to strengthen their participation in development planning and implementation?
3. What is the role of governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations in promoting inclusive development and supporting the meaningful participation of diverse groups in decision-making processes, especially those from the global South and less developed countries?

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