



TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE THEMATIC SESSION ON NGOS

Topic of the thematic session on NGOs: Implementation of target 11 of objective 7 of the MDGs

A. Introduction of the session

A1. Interest of the session

Since the declaration of the millennium that was signed by Heads of State and Government in September 2002, many efforts are expected to be made towards the accomplishment of the commitments made for the reduction of poverty by half for more than 100 million people living in slums and inhabitants of underprivileged neighbourhoods throughout the world.

Africa is home to many inhabitants concerned with this target. But in spite of the negative impact of globalisation on the economies of our countries, very little means are available to help increase the public expenditure of concerned countries in order to meet the social demand in equipment, goods and services for a very large number of people.

It is not only financial means that need to be mobilised, but it will at the same time be necessary to mobilise all of the actors including civil society in a context whereby the economic growth should be accompanied by pro-poor governance and sectoral policies in water, sanitation and housing which are also pro-poor dimensions.

The existence of several cases of slums in nearly every country and some of which have over 750.000 inhabitants is all the more the reason why the challenge can only be overcome by listening keenly to several experiences from slums and those NGOs that are working very closely with them.

The session will be interested in raising questions that could be turned into actions in the near future so as to contribute towards attaining the objectives.

A2) Main questions dealt with

Among the several questions to be dealt with, the priority will be the need to clarify the meaning that we all have of the concept "city without slums" that was enunciated by the international community since the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in New York on Istanbul + 5 in 2001.

All of those who are undertaking activities to improve the conditions of the inhabitants concerned by this target are quite aware that if all was in place to secure the land situation for this same target group, the latter would do everything possible to improve their conditions. To many of them, this will be the participation of their countries in mobilising the needed resources.

Will it not be better to believe that the attainment of these objectives is correlative to the absolute necessity of the respect of human rights in spite of the commitments made by most of the signatories of the millennium declaration and many other international agreements which corroborate the respect of human rights and the high level of required public expenditure?

A3) Main experiences presented

- The case of Kibera in Nairobi
- The case of Baraka in Senegal
- The case of the threatened neighbourhood of Port Said in Egypt.

B. Outline of the proceeding of the session

Our session will be presented in the form of a series of round tables that will last between 3 and a half hour to four including a break of 15 minutes of debate.

During the first round table, the invited panellists will discuss the issues of the concept and the vision. In the second round table discussions, the panellists will present the experiences that will of course would have been discussed in the first as well as a general discussion for all of the participants.

Following that, the facilitators of the session as well as some other invited personalities will make a summary of the discussions as well as the introductory elements in a form of a resolution so that at the end, a small committee will be responsible to draw up recommendations for the policy session on Africités before the end of the session.

Each panellist will intervene for only 5 to 10 minutes whereas during the session on the recommendations and resolutions of each session, they will require between 10 and 15 minutes.

The topic of the communication of each panellist will be sent later on.

B Names of the session presenters

- Malick GAYE will introduce the session
- Introduction to the session:
- The president of the session: Davinder Lamba
- Rapporteur of the session: Madam Zahina Ishani

The members of the first round table are:

- Miloon Kotari
- Madam Jane Wevu
- Joseph Schechia

Second round table:

- Madam Khady DIAGNE
- Mr. Moussa KA, Slum dweller
- Madam Rose Rop
- Egyptian centre for the Right to housing.