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**Creating an environment at the national and international levels
conducive to generating full and productive employment and
decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development**

Statement submitted by Institute of International Social Development, 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.

* E/2006/100.



Statement

Employment could be defined as a form of engagement whereby people can derive resources necessary for their livelihood. Thus every person has the right to be productively employed. However, the reality is an extreme lack of employment for a vast majority.

To overcome this serious problem, the national level policymakers should promote self-employment through various incentive schemes as conventional employment opportunities are much lower than the demand.

In fact, self-employment, self-help groups and setting up of small-scale business units are various enabling models which help in mass-based engagement in areas where people are skilled and have the confidence to be productive as producers. Due to minimal formalities to adapt the above-mentioned production/economic activity models, people in the rural sector, especially, in developing and least developed nations have started resorting to these concepts for earning their livelihood.

In India, our Institute has been able to help thousands of rural artisans to preserve and produce their ethnic and aesthetic products with assistance from Indian Government's numerous incentive schemes for rural entrepreneurs, self-help groups and small-scale rural business units.

For the rural population, which is the majority population in most developing and least developed nations, national Governments should ensure rural employment through the above-mentioned models.

At the international level, products marketed by social enterprises should be embraced.

Exchange programmes involving people and cultures should be encouraged to understand and appreciate each other's work. It is the exchange among communities that enhances better understanding and acceptance of unconventional products for procurement and use.

While national Governments should encourage the development of mass-based economic engagement, the international policymakers should create a platform for the products and services to reach the consumers.

International agencies related to commerce and industry should bring a global legislation to their stakeholders to maximize the involvement of mass-based units in the production of their products or services. Thus productive employment could be ensured to people who do not fall within the purview of conventional urban-based government and corporate jobs.

By developing a conducive environment for employment, both the national and international policymakers would prevent terrorism born out of extreme deprivation and total negligence. Employment would ensure, for people at large, livelihood and thus access to health care, education, better standard of living, experience in team work, and mass participation in any developmental venture, power to decide and not fall prey to disguised slavery due to abject poverty and have access to all other ingredients to ensure better quality of life. All these, in turn, would ensure sustainable development.